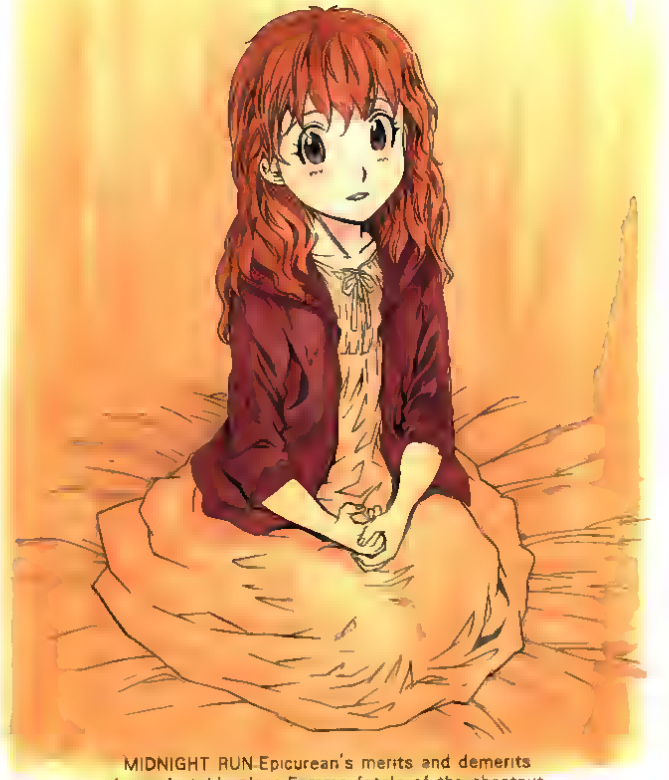
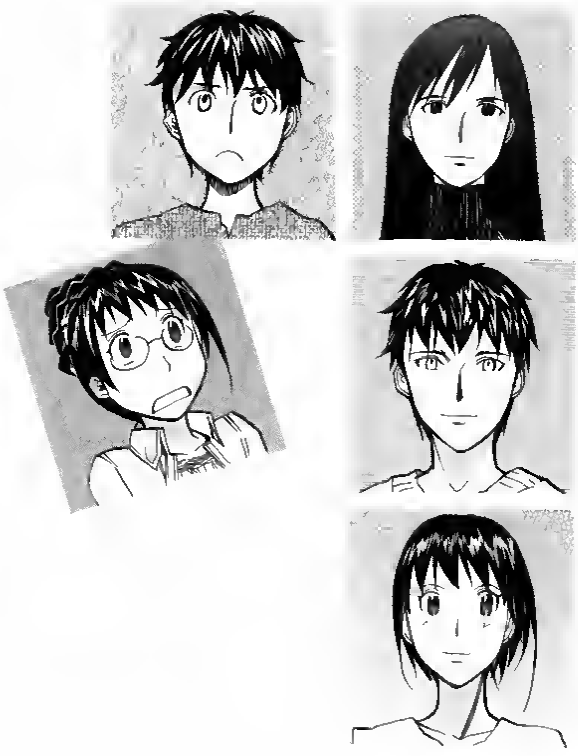
YUME NO ATOSAKI

The past and the future of the dream

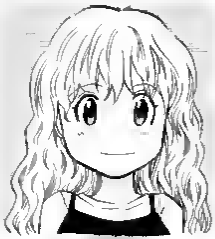


MIDNIGHT RUN.Epicurean's merits and demerits
A comfortable place.Femme fatale of the chestnut
DREAM IS OVER.In hesitation.The other side of the dream

VILLAGE IDIOT SCANS



#1. MIDNIGHT RUN



WHAT, WHAT... OTOBE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND, REALLY?
IS IT THAT MUCH OF A SURPRISE?
I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A YEAR. I HAD NO CLUE YOU HAD A GIRL-FRIEND.
WOW, QUITE SHOCK-ING!
WHAT?

HEY, TELL ME, TELL ME ABOUT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S OLDER THAN I AM, A SENIOR.
MEANWHILE, HE WAS REJECTED BY THE ART COLLEGE, AND IS NOW A MIDIOKA COLLEGE STUDENT LIVING IN A SMALL CITY.
QUIET, PAL!
REATAN, DORA-DORA, MAN GANG. I WIN!
SHE IS A COLLEGE MUSIC STUDENT LIVING FAR AWAY IN TOKYO.
WHAT?
WELL, THE GAME IS OVER.
SHALL WE GO BACK TO CLASS?
I CAN'T LEAVE IT NOW, I'VE LOST SO MUCH
NO, WE SHOULD CONTINUE PLAYING.
WE'D BETTER GO TO OUR CALCULUS CLASS

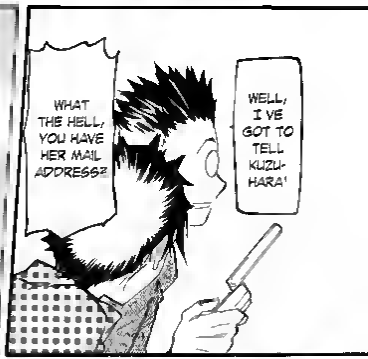
I HAVE CLASS AS WELL!! EXCUSE ME!!
EH!
HIZUKA-CHAN WERE YOU THERE THE WHOLE TIME?
HUP
I HAVE CLASS NEXT PERIOD, IF I SKIP, I WON'T GET ANY CREDIT.
SLAM
SNEEE
HE'S HOPELESS.
HEH, I DIDN'T THINK HIZUKA HAD ANY CLASSES THIS AFTER-NOON

YOU MEAN THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS BORING?
DID YOU SAY YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS BORING?

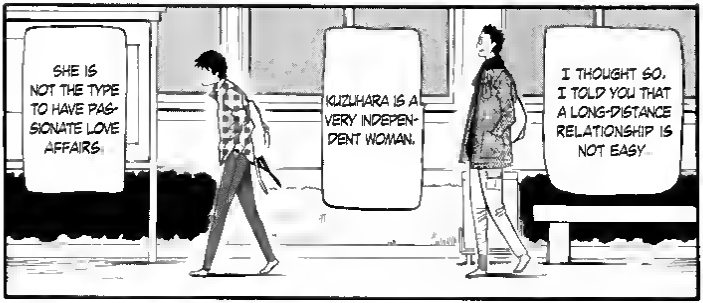
I BLAME YOU FOR BRINGING UP THAT BORING STORY. THE ROOM TURNED AWKWARD AFTERWARDS.

I DON'T MEAN THAT SHE NEVER CALLS BUT...
HER CELL PHONE IS OFTEN TURNED OFF
FOR EVERY FIVE MAILS I SEND, SHE SENDS ME ONE.

SHE HASN'T CONTACTED YOU?


WHAT THE HELL, YOU HAVE HER MAIL ADDRESS?
WELL, I'VE GOT TO TELL KUZUHARA!

YOU ARE OVER-REACTING. IDIOT
KIDDING.


SHE IS NOT THE TYPE TO HAVE PASSIONATE LOVE AFFAIRS.
KUZUHARA IS A VERY INDEPENDENT WOMAN.
I THOUGHT SO. I TOLD YOU THAT A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP IS NOT EASY.

I MET HER LAST DURING THE SUMMER BREAK.
IT'S BEEN MORE THAN HALF A YEAR
ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT?

I DIDN'T GET IN, WHICH MEANS I DON'T REALLY DESERVE TO BE AN ARTIST.
I JUST DON'T HAVE THE MOTIVATION TO DRAW. I MIGHT BE BURNED OUT.
WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING YOU BURNED OUT FROM THE EN TRANCE EXAMS?
I LIKED IT, YASU-SHI.
YOUR DRAW-ING.
AND DIDN'T YOU USE THE PAST TENSE JUST NOW?
I DON'T CARE WHET-HER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. IT DOESN'T MAT-TER, OKAY?

IT'S PATHETIC, BEYOND HELP.
WELL, YOU TWO HAVE LOST CONTACT SINCE THEN, RIGHT?
I DON'T EXPECT HER TO REMEMBER THAT INCIDENT AFTER THIS LONG... IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR ALREADY.
HIRATSUGI!! I'LL KILL YOU!
HE ISN'T SERIOUS; THE REAL REASON IS HIS PARENTS GAVE UP ON HIM AND FOCUSED MORE ON HIS YOUNGER BROTHER THEY JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER SPENDING MONEY ON YASU ANYMORE
THE COLLEGE DID NOT ACCEPT ME THE FIRST TIME. WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRYING FOR A SECOND TIME? I CANNOT BEG THEM TO ACCEPT ME
WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT TO RE-APPLY TO THAT ART COLLEGE, YASUSHI?
I DID NOT KNOW YOU HAD SUCH PRIDE IN YOURSELF!

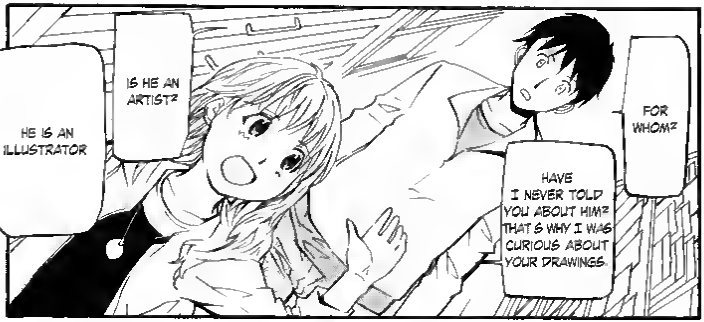
?
I USED TO PLAY BASKETBALL. BUT I INJURED MY FOOT LIGAMENT, AND LOST MY RECOMMENDATION TO THE COLLEGE.
HIRATSUGI, HOW COME YOU ENDED UP IN THIS COLLEGE?
I DIDN'T GET IN THE OTHER COLLEGE WITH MY PRIVILEGE PASS, SO THIS COLLEGE PICKED ME UP AT THE LAST MINUTE.
NOPE! I DON'T HAVE ANY DESIRE AT ALL
YASUSHI, YOU DON'T WANT TO DRAW ANYMORE?
I DON'T MIND IT AT ALL. TOORI-SAN, YOU CAN ASK ME ANYTHING
I AM SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN TO BRING UP BAD MEMORIES
WHAT IS THAT? THAT BOARD OVER THERE?
I DON'T THINK SO, YOU ARE STILL ATTACHED TO IT, AREN'T YOU?

I ENVY YOU!
IT'S PROBABLY HER WAY OF ENCOURAGING YOU TO DRAW.
IT'S NOTHING, MY GIRLFRIEND SENT ME ONE AFTER I GOT ADMITTED TO THIS COLLEGE
SHE WANTED HER BOY-FRIEND TO STAND NEXT TO HER INDEPEN-DENTLY.
THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP SHE WAS EXPECTING WASN'T OF CO-DEPENDENCY
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, HAVEN'T I?
WHATEVER, TELL ME THE REAL REASON WHY YOU QUIT DRAWING
SHUT UP.
FROM THE PSYCHO-LOGICAL POINT OF VIEW, YOU COULD ADOPT A DETACHED STANCE ON THE WHOLE ISSUE

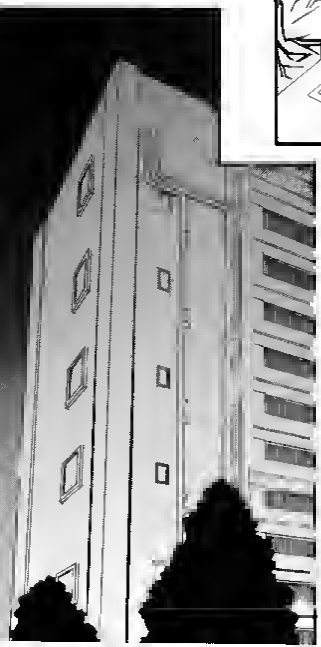
WHEN I SEE AN OPEN BASKET POST, I HAVE AN URGE TO THROW THE BALL INTO IT.
YOU WERE QUITE INTO DRAWING FOR LONG TIME.
BUT I STILL DON'T GET WHY YOU QUIT.
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU WANT TO BE UPSET?

I- I- I THINK ..
?
OTOBE-KUN,
THIS IS OUR CLUB'S SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT MONTH.
THANKS.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THE WEEKEND?
I DON'T KNOW
OKAY...
AHHH, I THINK ..
WHAT?
I THINK THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE SOME DESIRE, IS A GREAT THING.
SO, THEN,
YOU BETTER CONTINUE!
I HAVE COM-PLETE FAITH IN YOU.
DASH
IT'S NOT HER BUSI-NESS.
THAT'D BE EASY TO S-Y...

I THREW AWAY ALL MY DRAWING TOOLS...
IT SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME AGO...
I HAVE NO REASON TO BE HERE
Oh, shit! I bumped into her a real nice place
AH, I GET IT. YOU USED TO DRAW.
WELL, WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
O-
HEY, IT'S YAGUSHI-KUN.
I'M RUNNING AN ERRAND FOR A FRIEND.
IT'S FOR MY FRIEND.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY ARE YOU HERE?


FOR WHOM?
HAVE I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM? THAT'S WHY I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR DRAWINGS.
IS HE AN ARTIST?
HE IS AN ILLUSTRATOR

IS THAT RIGHT? IS HE A PROFESSIONAL ILLUSTRATOR?
MAYBE DO YOU KNOW A NOBUAKI YUASA?



Of course, I am a fan of hi
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES.

HE'S A FAN OF YOURS SO I BROUGHT HIM TO MEET YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU, MY NAME IS OTOBE.
WHO IS HE?
MY JUNIOR FROM THE COLLEGE.
YOU DID?
I HAVE A TIGHT WORK SCHEDULE SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I'LL MAKE TEA

YASUSHI-KUN, HERE'S YOUR TEA.
TH-TH..NK YOU..
HI, NOBU-KUN, HERE IS YOURS
THANKS
NOBU, CAN I SHOW YOUR DRAWING TO YASUSHI-KUN?
SURE.
AHHH!
MAY I, PLEASE!

HE OUT-CLASSES ME SO BADLY.
DARN IT!!

THEY KNOCK ME DOWN SO HARD.
DAMN IT
THEY ARE SO GOOD.
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.

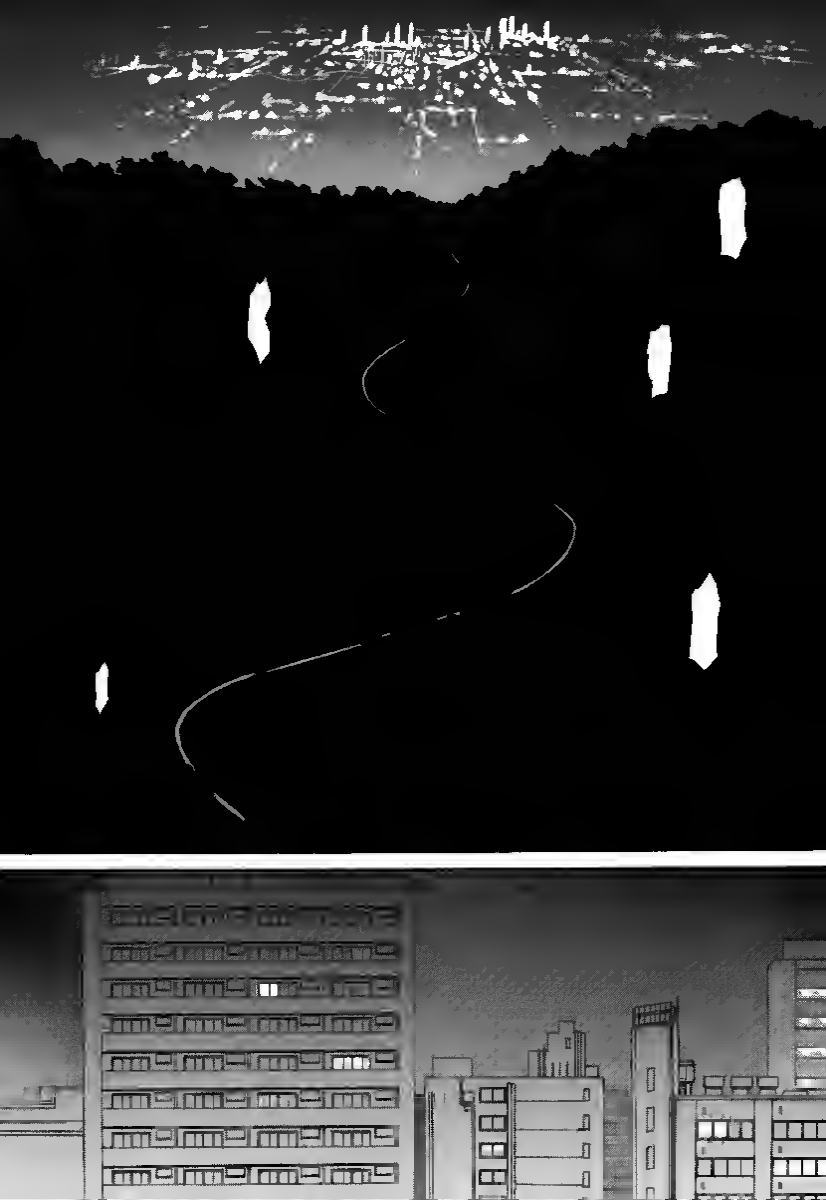
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
IT'S BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE MEETING YOU.
YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR DINNER.
ALTHOUGH IT'S LATE, I JUST FINISHED MY WORK. NOW I HAVE SOME TIME TO CHAT.

I HAVEN'T HAD THIS FEELING IN A LONG TIME
SHOCKING!
I SAW THE REAL NOBUAKI YUASA'S RAW DRAWINGS
LUCKY ME
DHAA

I'LL SEE YOU VERY SOON!
PU... PU...
THE NUMBER YOU DIALED IS CURRENTLY NOT REACHABLE
THERE'S NO TRAIN TO TOKYO, THIS LATE

NOBODY TOLD ME THAT A SCOOTER CAN'T BE ON THE HIGHWAY!
WHAT AN IDIOT I AM!
HELP.
WOW!
IT'S WAY TOO COLD!
BESIDES THAT,
IT'S REALLY SCARY!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS IS MARCH--SPRING!

BUT...
I WANNA STOP... AND GET WARM.
I-
IT'S SNOWING.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK UP
IF I STOP NOW.
THE ROAD'S REALLY SLIPPERY!
WOOOOO!



DING DONG
IT'S ME...
WHO IS IT?
KUN
YASUSHI, ARE YOU CRAZY...

SPLASH
SPLOSH
EIGHT HOURS! YOU MUST BE KIDDING?
OH MY, YOU'RE FREEZING.
I'LL TELL YOU LATER. FIRST, LET ME HAVE A HOT BATH.
I REMEMBER UNTIL NUMAZU, HALF WAY TO TOKYO...
AND I STILL REMEMBER IT STARTED TO SNOW TOWARD THE END.
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU.
HE'S HOPELESS
YOU'RE RIGHT
I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT.
YOU ARE A TRUE IDIOT. YOU COULD'VE WAITED TILL MORNING AND JUST TAKEN A TRAIN.
I WANTED TO SHARE SOMETHING WITH YOU. I WANT YOU TO LISTEN MY STORY..

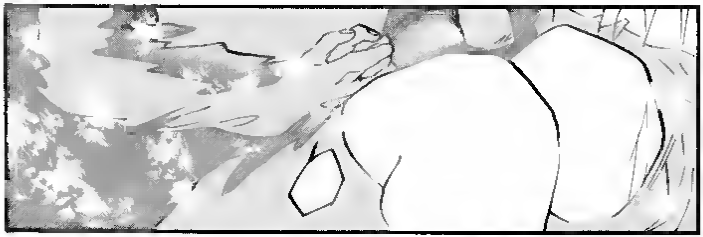
ARE YOU STILL SHIVERING?
HOW IS IT?
YOU'RE LIKE A BIG BRAT

BRR... THIS FEELS LIKE A FREEZING HELL!
JUST LIKE A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER WHO GOES TO A SNOWY MOUNTAIN AND ENDS UP DYING.
HAVE YOU TOUCHED SUCH A MAN?
OF COURSE NOT, IT'S JUST AN EXAMPLE
SSST
THEN, WHY THE HELL DID YOU COME TO SEE ME? YOU MUST HAVE VERY GOOD REASON!
YOU CAN TELL ME NOW.
TODAY... YESTERDAY, I SAW THE PRO ILLUSTRATOR'S DRAWINGS
THE DRAWINGS WERE EVEN RAW...

I HAVEN'T FELT THAT WAY IN A VERY LONG TIME.
I GOT A CHILL.
THEY WERE SO AWE-SOME.

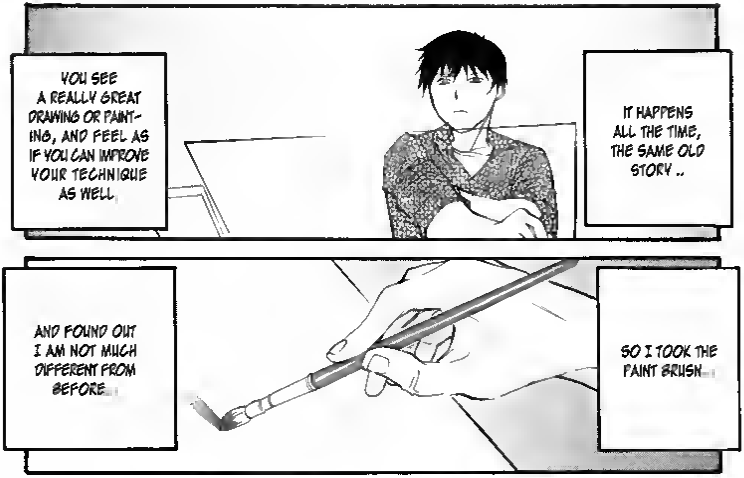
SO - WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
WELL, I'M NOT SURE YET...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
WELL...
AHHH...



WELCOME BACK.

IT'S IMPORTANT WHAT YOU DO AFTER THAT
I GOT INSPIRED, SO WHAT NOW?
THEN, WHAT SHALL I DO NEXT?

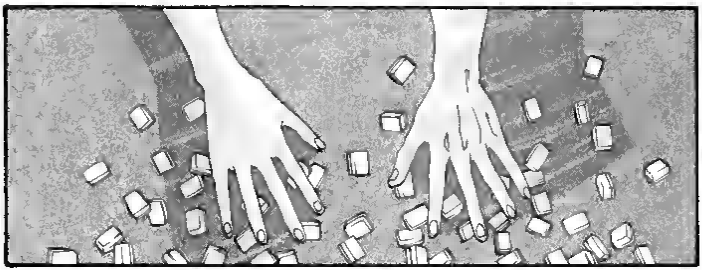

YOU SEE A REALLY GREAT DRAWING OR PAINTING, AND FEEL AS IF YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR TECHNIQUE AS WELL
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, THE SAME OLD STORY ..
AND FOUND OUT I AM NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE...
SO I TOOK THE PAINT BRUSH...

KEEP MOVEING FORWARD...
ALL I CAN DO IS...
BUT I DECIDED...

#2.

The Pros and Cons of Epicureanism*.

*NOTE: A PHILOSOPHY WHERE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS SEEKING SIMPLE PLEASURES IN LIFE.



LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE JUST GOT MOTIVATED AGAIN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YASUSHI? HE'S BEEN IGNORING US LATELY.
UH HUH, YEAH

HEY,
I'VE GOTTA GO.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

WELL,
HE'S STARTED TO DRAW AGAIN, RIGHT?

IT WOULD BE WEIRD FOR A SOPHOMORE TO JOIN A CLUB WHERE NOBODY KNOWS HIM
HE SHOULD HAVE JOINED THE ART CLUB INSTEAD OF OUR DUMB CLUB.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT
FLIP
UHM, HEY THERE,
ARE YOU DONE?
I JUST FINISHED THE GAME. I'LL BE THERE.
GUYS, I 'VE GOTTA GO.
THAT WAS MAEHARA FROM THE LITERATURE CLUB. YOU'RE SETTING SOME KIND OF RECORD FOR GIRLFRIENDS.
WELL DONE.
HEHE, YEAH! SEE YA.

THE OTHER GIRL?
HELLO?
KUMI-CHAN, YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE BUSY.
WHAT?
RING!!
PISSED
OKAY, OKAY.
YOU REALLY WANTED TO SEE ME?
PISSED
I'LL BE A BIT LATE
WHERE I GOT STABBED IN HIGH SCHOOL?
DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT?
YOU'RE GOING TO BE KILLED BY ONE OF THEM SOON.
GO TO HELL! ASSHOLE! I'LL KILL HIM!
SEE YOU LATER, GUYS. HAVE FUN.

MAEHARA-SAN IS A MEMBER OF THE AMATEUR ORCHESTRA CLUB THAT MINOSHIMA-KUN WAS ASKED TO JOIN TEMPORARILY FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, RIGHT?
YEP. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT MINOSHIMA CAN PLAY THE TRUMPET AS WELL
DIDN'T HE ALSO HELP THE SOCCER CLUB FOR A BIT?
YEAH. AND THE SWIMMING CLUB AS WELL
IS HE GOOD AT EVERY-THING?
I STILL CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT
HE'S A MYSTERIOUS GUY

I FORGOT MY SEMINAR REPORT.
IT'S DUE TOMOR-ROW.
ARE YOU HEAD-ING HOME THIS LATE?
YOU CAN DO IT HERE.
I'M SORRY.
ALL MY RESEARCH IS AT HOME.

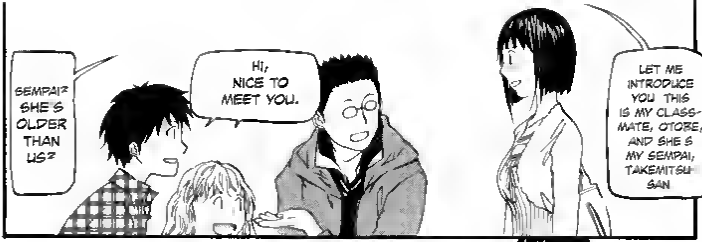
IS THAT MINO-SHIMA?
HE'S A LADY-KILLER.
JEEZ...

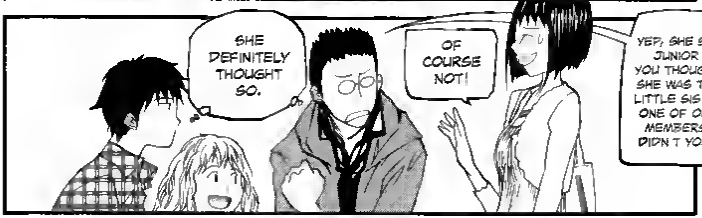
YASUSHI, DID HE REALLY SAY THAT?
BUMP
HE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT HER. IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE IT WAS MAE-HARA.
BUMP
YEAH WELL,
IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSI-NESS.
BUMP
SWOOOSH
YOU'RE COLD.

PLEASE!!
BE QUIET.
I HEARD YOU HAD A BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE.
OOPS.
I HATE YOU!
YOU SON OF A BITCH!
I READ ABOUT IT IN MANGA. IT SAYS YOU USE THE LEFT HAND TO BALANCE THE BALL.
NOPE.
WITH THAT FORM, YOU MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE PLAYING BASKETBALL.
BOUNCE

I HATE HIM. BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, I REALLY ENVY HIM.
I HEAR YOU.
YOU BE QUIET. PEOPLE WILL MIS-UNDER-STAND ME.
YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND TO COMFORT YOU!
HMP!
MINO-SHIMA SHINGO,
HE'S GOT SO MANY TALENTS HE IS ABOVE AVERAGE AT EVERYTHING.
ONE MORE TIME!
ON TOP OF HIS TALENT, HE'S GOOD LOOKING TOO. HE NEVER HAS TROUBLE PICKING UP GIRLS.
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.
HMMM, YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND HAVE SUCH AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP?

HELLO, ANYONE HERE?
IS THAT YOU, MAEHARA?
AH, HIRATSUGI!
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR CLUB?
UH, I WAS WONDERING IF MINOSHIMA-KUN IS HERE.
I SAW HIM HERE JUST MOMENT AGO.
IS SHE MINOSHIMA KUN'S GIRLFRIEND THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT?
I THINK SO.
UH, HI.
OH, HELLO.
SHE LOOKS LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT GIRL FROM LAST TIME.


SEMPAI? SHE'S OLDER THAN US?
Hi, NICE TO MEET YOU.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU THIS IS MY CLASSMATE, OTOBE, AND SHE'S MY SEMPAI, TAKEMITSU-SAN

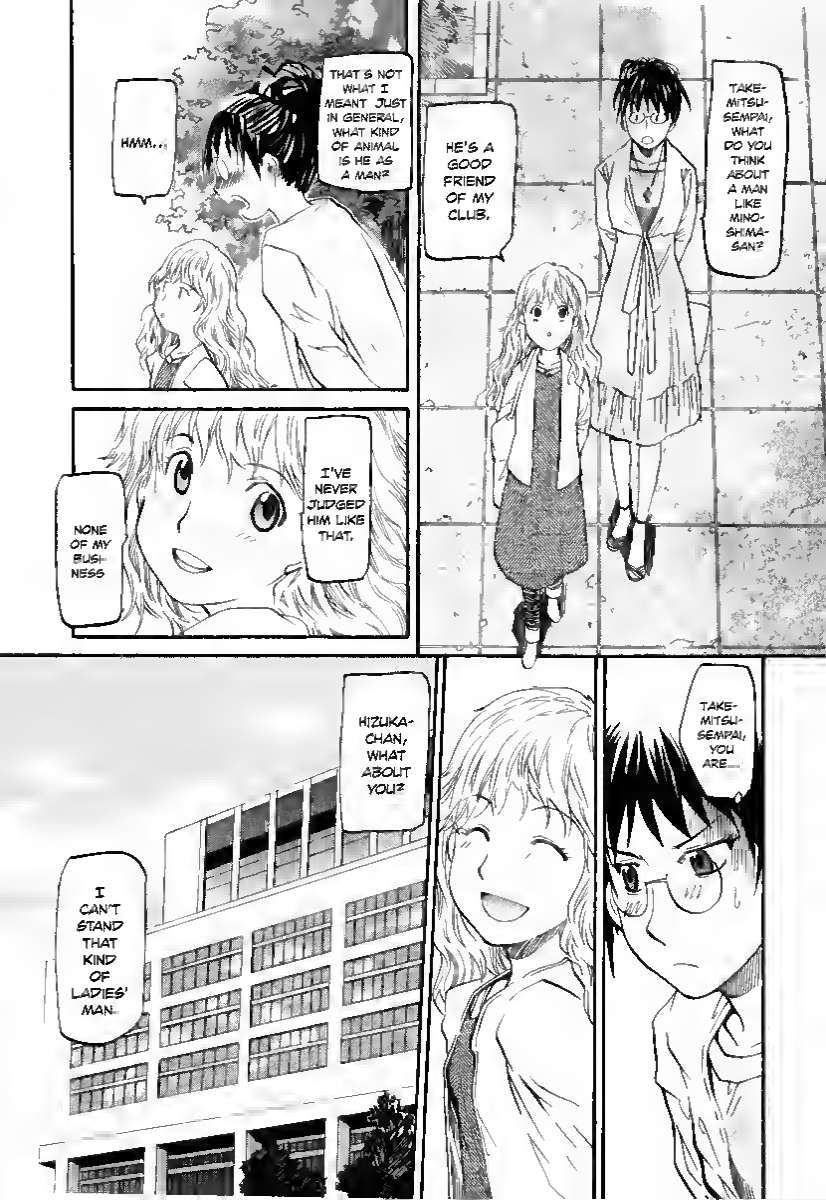

SHE DEFINITELY THOUGHT SO.
OF COURSE NOT!
YEP, SHE'S A JUNIOR YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS THE LITTLE SIS OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, DIDN'T YOU?

UMM...
HOW CAN I HELP YOU? WANT ME TO GIVE A MESSAGE TO MINOSHIMA?

I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHERE MINOSHIMA-KUN HANGS AROUND ALL THE TIME.
YOU JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE DOES WHEN HE'S NOT WITH YOU, RIGHT?
WELL, I CAN GIVE THEM BACK LATER TONIGHT.
THAT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE
I WANTED TO GIVE HIM BACK HIS NOTES.

ARE YOU DOING OKAY?
THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE WITH RUMORS LIKE THOSE
YEAH, I CAN'T SAY THAT I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT ALL THE RUMORS I'VE HEARD.
YOU WANT TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH FOR YOURSELF?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M A BIT CONFUSED.
IS THAT RIGHT?
YOU MAY BE RIGHT. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF THE EVIDENCE.

THIS AFTERNOON, I WENT TO YOUR CLUB TO DROP OFF YOUR NOTEBOOK.
THIS AFTERNOON?
YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANKS FOR YOUR NOTES.
I MUST HAVE BEEN AT THE CAFETERIA I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO EAT AT LUNCH.
HMM...
I'VE GOT NEWS. I'M GETTING A CAR.
ARE YOU GOING TO BUY IT?
I HOPE SO, BUT IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN FROM MY BIG BRO.
THAT I'LL BE THE FIRST PASSENGER SITTING NEXT TO YOU DRIVING.
THEN, MAKE ME A PROMISE...
?


TAKEMITSU-SEMPAI, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT A MAN LIKE MINOSHIMA-SAN?
HE'S A GOOD FRIEND OF MY CLUB.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. JUST IN GENERAL, WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL IS HE AS A MAN?
HMM...
I'VE NEVER JUDGED HIM LIKE THAT.
NONE OF MY BUSINESS
TAKEMITSU-SEMPAI, YOU ARE...
HIZUKA-CHAN, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I CAN'T STAND THAT KIND OF LADIES' MAN.

WHAT?!
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT EXCEPT FOR YASUSHI HIMSELF
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING UP OTOBE-KUN?
AHH, WHAT THE HECK?
YOUR TYPE IS YASUSHI, RIGHT?
WELL.. IT'S TRUE
I THINK I'M RIGHT.

WHAT'S NOT TRUE?
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED WITH MAEHARA THAT'S WHAT I MEANT
NOTHING I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH HER.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM WITH MAE-HARA?

IF YOU EAT JAPANESE FOOD ALL THE TIME, YOU SOMETIMES HAVE A CRAVING FOR WESTERN FOOD, DON'T YOU?
THEN, WHEN YOU GET TIRED OF THE WESTERN FOOD, YOU LIKE TO TRY CHINESE FOOD, RIGHT?
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL BUMP INTO YOUR IDEAL GIRL. SOMEONE THAT IS EVERYTHING YOU WERE HOPING FOR
WOMEN ARE NOT FOOD.
JUST AN EXAMPLE IN CASE SOMETHING CHANGES IN THE FUTURE; I WANT TO KEEP MYSELF OPEN
THEN, WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL GIRL?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HEAR?
NO, THANK YOU.
YOU'D BETTER APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE OTHERWISE, YOU'LL GET PUNISHED OH, I WISH GOD WOULD PUNISH YOU.
BE CAREFUL!
CLANG

I HEARD THE RUMORS ...
AND MY FRIEND WARNED ME SO MANY TIMES.
.....
I HAD TO SEE FOR MYSELF

GOOD BYE.
THIS IS TOO PATHETIC. I CAN'T DENY WHAT I SEE WITH MY OWN EYES.
SO I DIDN'T BELIEVE THOSE RUMORS.
BUT ALL THOSE TIMES, I TOLD MYSELF THAT I WAS SPECIAL TO YOU.
DO YOU THINK I SHOULD?
ARE YOU GOING TO CHASE AFTER HER?
WEACK
QUIT IT, YOU ASS-HOLE...

I LOST EVERYTHING. MY BOX IS EMPTY NOW.
EMPTY
RON, I WIN THE GAME. PAY THE DEALER DOUBLE.
MI... NO... SHI... MA... KUN. YOU'RE NOT LISTEN-ING.
HOW UN-USUAL, YOU ACTUALLY LOOK DE-PRESSED.
YOU KNOW, IT HAPPENS TO ME TOO. NOTHING UNUSUAL.

WOW! HARD TO BELIEVE
IT GOT HIT BY A TRUCK WHEN I PARKED IT ON THE ROAD AFTER MY FIRST DRIVE.
HEY!
ARE YOU WALKING HOME?
WHERE'S YOUR FAMOUS NEW CAR?
HEY,
HOWDY!
HELLO,
I BROUGHT SOME SNACKS
THANKS.
WE'VE CANCELLED THE NIGHT DRIVE. HIS CAR BROKE DOWN AND IT'S IN THE GARAGE.
I'M SORRY. HAVE A SEAT. I'LL MAKE SOME COFFEE.

DON'T WORRY.
YOU DREW THOSE TO SHOW OTHER PEOPLE ANYWAY, RIGHT?
ZUNG
!
DON'T PEEK AT IT.
?
I KNOW IT'S AWFUL.
YEAH, IT DOES, AREN'T YOU?
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M ENJOYING EVERYTHING TO YOU?
YOU JUST ENJOY DOING ANYTHING.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER. IF YOU ENJOY DRAWING, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

I'M NOT REALLY SURE.

MINOSHIMA,
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU REALLY WANT TO DO?
DO I NEED TO?
IT'S NOT NECESSARY, BUT...

YOU THINK SO?
I THINK THOSE ARE LAME
I CAN'T STAND IT
TO WORK HARD TOWARD MY OWN DREAM SOUNDS TOO MELODRAMATIC
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT
I THINK THE BUSINESS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IS MELODRAMATIC TOO
HA, HA, H...
YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO MAE HARA

I PROMISED MAEHARA THAT SHE'D BE THE FIRST ONE TO SIT IN THE PASSENGER SEAT
THANK YOU!
OKAY, LET ME KNOW THE ESTIMATE.
DO I STILL CARE ABOUT HER? THAT'S NOT LIKE ME.
SHOULD I WALK TO THE TRAFFIC LIGHT?
SCREEEEEECH!!!

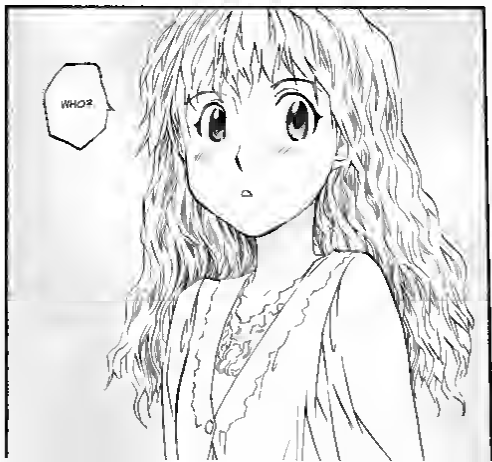
KARMA FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU
YOU GOT MESSED UP
HIRATSUGI SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING MINOSHI MAG SAD OMEN.
YOU CAN'T MOCK ME. I'M THE VICTIM.
BUT YOU'VE GOT REALLY BAD LUCK TO BE RUN OVER BY A MOTOR-CYCLE.
NO, HE WAS AN OLD MAN IN HIS 40S
IT WASN'T ONE OF THOSE LITTLE SCOOTERS, IT WAS A BIG 1000CC MOTORCYCLE.
HE VISITED ME THIS AFTERNOON. HE LOOKED LIKE A VICTIM.
WAS HE IN A MOTOR-CYCLE GANG?
NIKE

OH, SO YOU'RE BLAMING HIM?
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DRIVING THROUGH SUCH A NARROW SPACE.
THE GUY WASN'T INJURED.
HIS BIKE IS JUST DAMAGED A BIT.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL BED!
NIKE

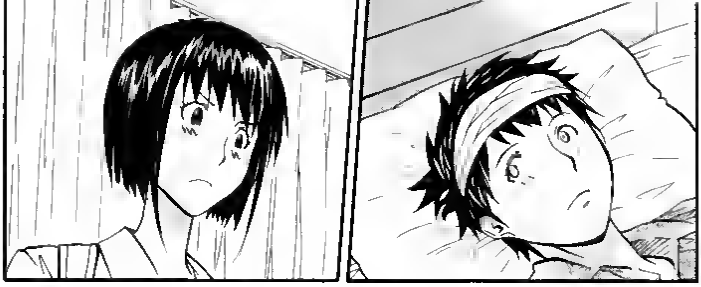
I COULDN'T STAND THAT MINOSHIMA HAS SO MUCH PRIVILEGE WITH HIS TALENT AND LUCK.
He's not dead, so I can't take him.
WE ALL HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND LUCK.
AFTER ALL.

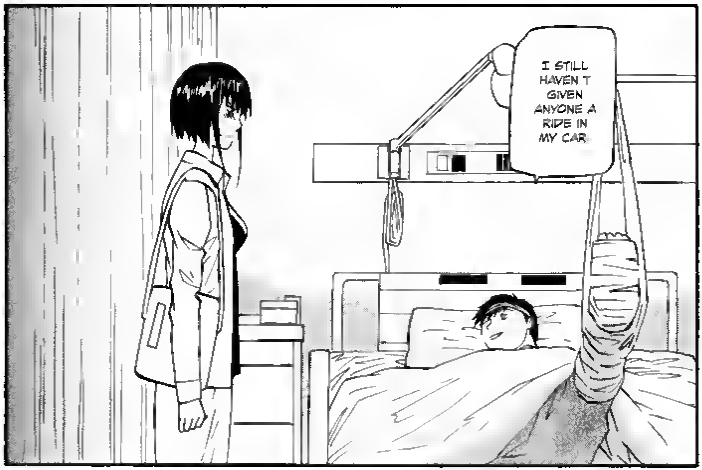
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, IT WAS MORE THAN A BIT.
I USED TO ENVY HIM A BIT.
I DON'T ENVY HIM AT ALL.
I'M NOT JEALOUS OF HIS LUCK ANYMORE.
IS HE TRYING TO CONVINCE HIMSELF?

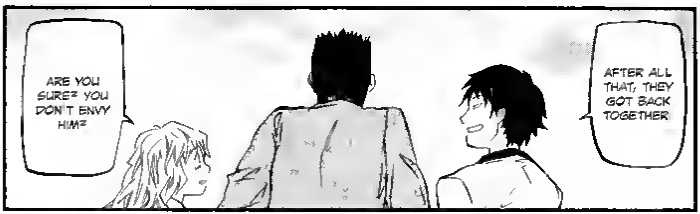
HE BROKE UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, HIS CAR IS IN THE SHOP.
AND MINOSHIMA WILL DEFINITELY HAVE TO TAKE MAKE UP EXAMS.


WHO?

IS THAT... MAEHARA?
MINOSHIMA SHINGO GOT IN AN ACCIDENT?
HE'S GOT BROKEN BONES?
HOW IS HE?
WHAT'S HIS ROOM NUMBER?
502.
THANK YOU!
PLEASE DON'T RUN IN THE HALLWAY!




I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN ANYONE A RIDE IN MY CAR.


ARE YOU SURE? YOU DON'T ENVY HIM?
AFTER ALL THAT, THEY GOT BACK TOGETHER.

SHUT UP!!
SHIT! SHIT!

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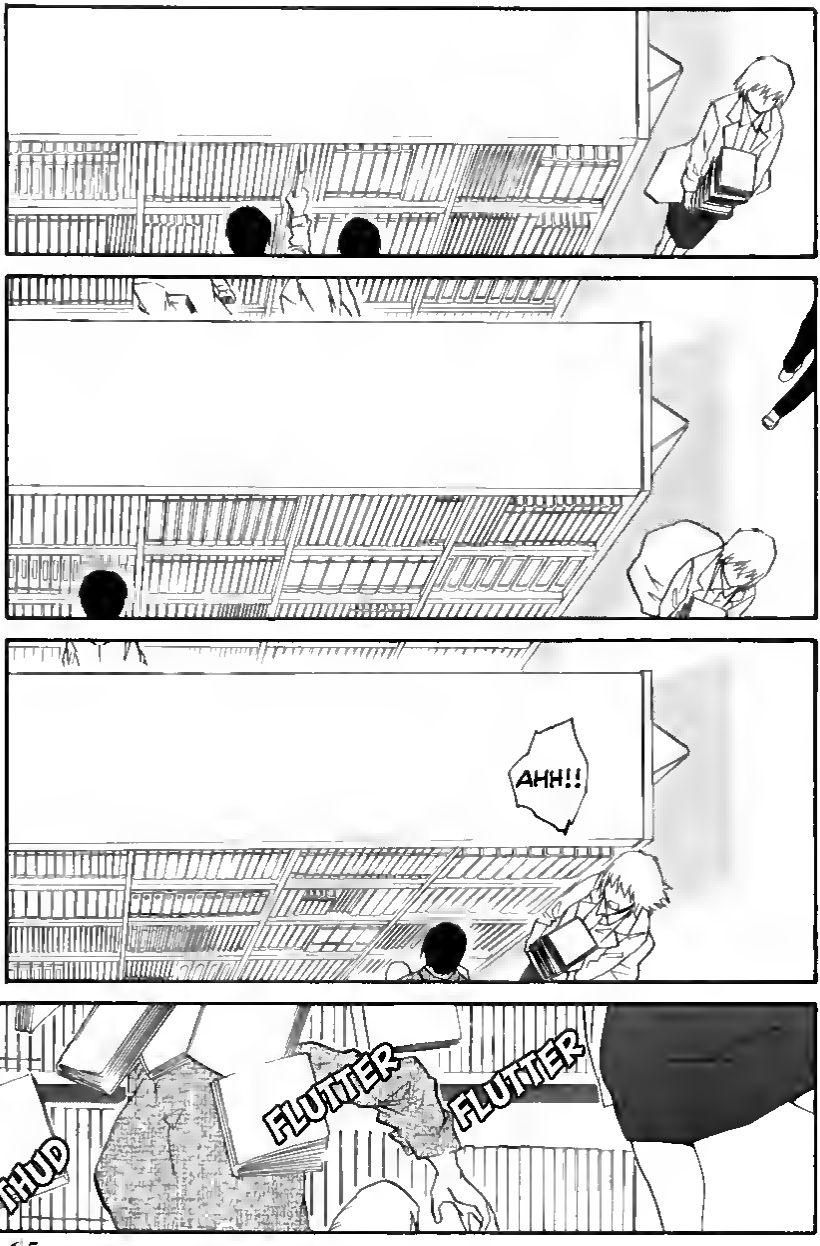
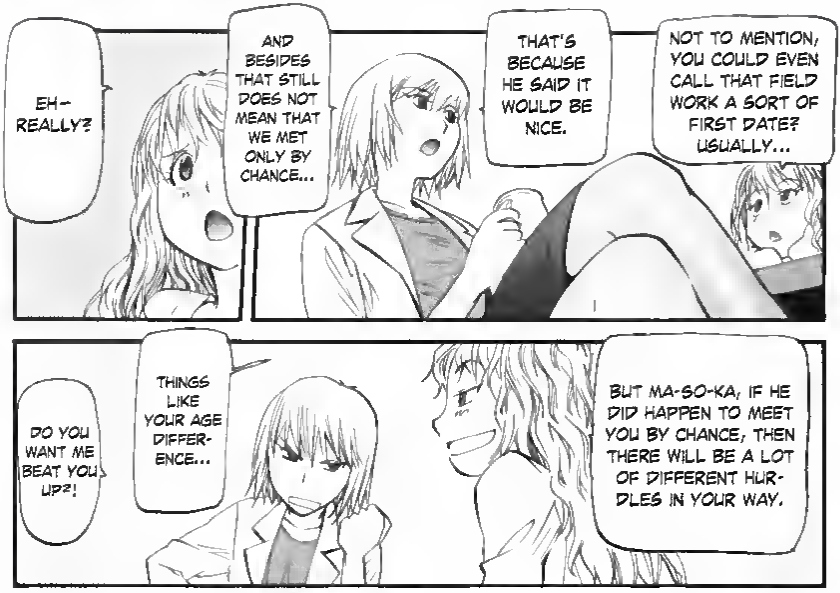

AHH!!
THUD
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

#3. A Comfortable Place

?
HEY!
OH, SHUT UP.
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
YOU ENDED UP MEETING SOMEONE ELSE BY CHANCE?
SO, WHEN YOU WENT TO GO RETURN THE BOOK YOU BORROWED FROM THAT PROFESSOR...
IT'S ANNOY-ING.
EVERY-THING YOU SAY COMES TRUE.
YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP SHUTTING YOURSELF IN THE SEMINAR ROOM ALL THE TIME BECAUSE A UNIVERSITY STUDENT SHOULD GO OUT AND LIVE A LITTLE.
BUT I TOLD YOU DIDN'T I?


EH– REALLY?
AND BESIDES THAT STILL DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE MET ONLY BY CHANCE...
THAT'S BECAUSE HE SAID IT WOULD BE NICE.
NOT TO MENTION, YOU COULD EVEN CALL THAT FIELD WORK A SORT OF FIRST DATE? USUALLY...
DO YOU WANT ME BEAT YOU UP?!
THINGS LIKE YOUR AGE DIFFERENCE...
BUT MA-SO-KA, IF HE DID HAPPEN TO MEET YOU BY CHANCE, THEN THERE WILL BE A LOT OF DIFFERENT HURDLES IN YOUR WAY.

GOOD MORNING.

WHAT'S UP?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
ARE YOU A BIOLOGY RESEARCHER HIGASE-SAN?
MHMM.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S IN A RUSH.
NOPE, SHALL WE GO?

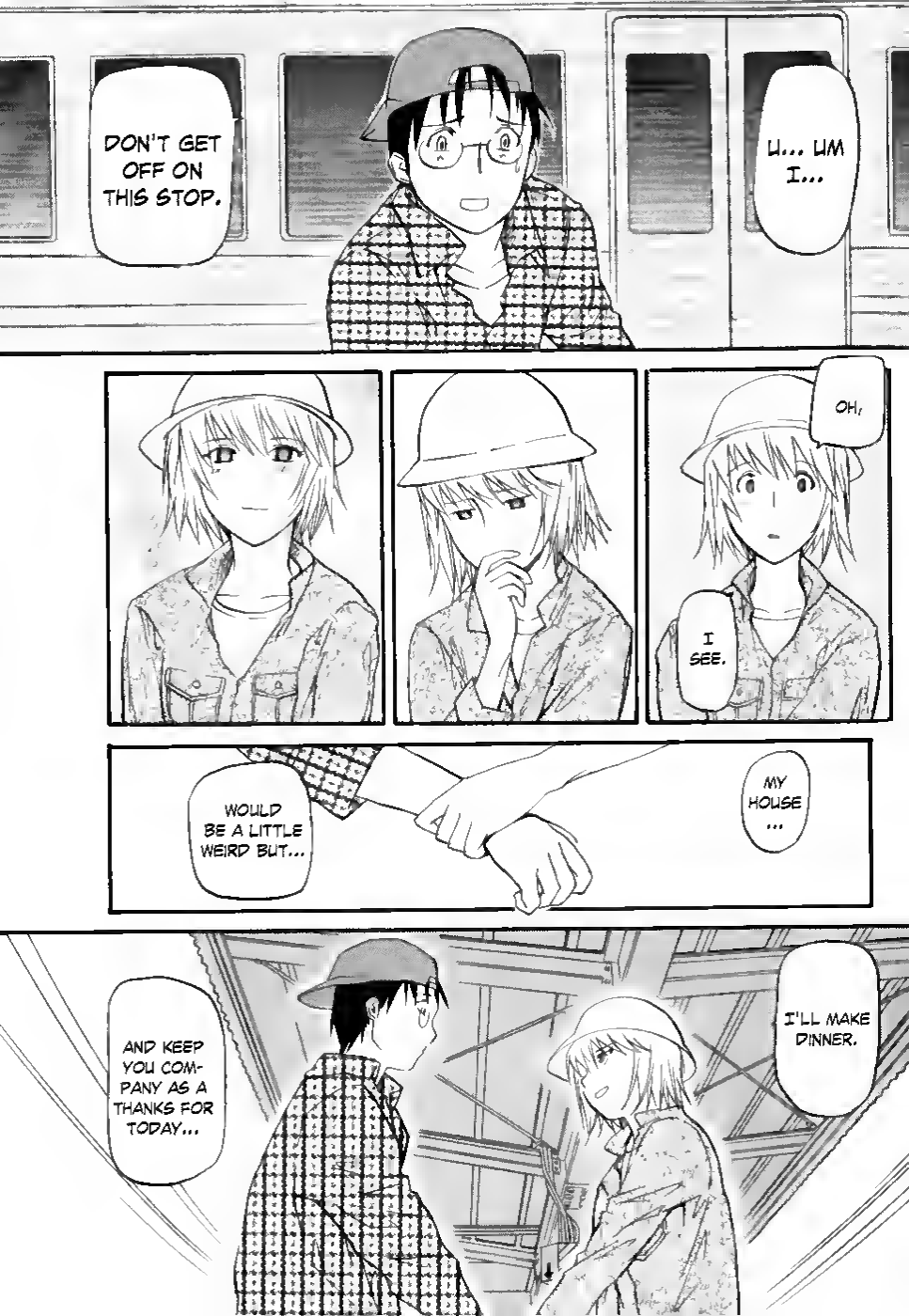
?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SO, WHAT'S YOUR AREA OF STUDY.
THIS IS...?
OH- I KNOW.
WHAT A SPLENDID COMPOSITION.
IS STUDYING THINGS LIKE THIS STRANGE?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S NOT A MAJOR THING.
AH, SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.

...YOU MUST HAVE PERMISSION TO STUDY THESE THINGS BY ONE OF YOUR OTHER PROFESSORS.
SO...
WELL, EVERY NOW AND THEN.
YOU EVER TAKE PICTURES OF STRANGE THINGS LIKE THAT?
YA, ALTHOUGH IT'S GOOD THAT I ENJOY IT TOO.
YOU MUST BE REALLY GOOD AT COOKING
WOW, THESE ARE DELICIOUS.
OH, LET'S EAT.

I'M JUST USED TO MAKING THINGS LIKE THIS... SINCE I MAKE THEM SO OFTEN.
AH, I SEE.
WELL- I WAS ONLY KIDDING BUT... IT'S A HOBBY OF MINE.
I'M PRETTY MUCH USED TO CAMERAS TOO.
IF YOU'RE NOT EMBARRASSED THAT IS.
WELL, THIS WOULDN'T BE A BAD PLACE TO TAKE A PICTURE

I THINK YOU LOOK LIKE A PHOTOGRAPHER.
EH?
AH, NO WONDER.
TO BE HONEST, I ACTUALLY GO OUT OFTEN TO TAKE PICTURES OF THINGS LIKE MOUNTAINS

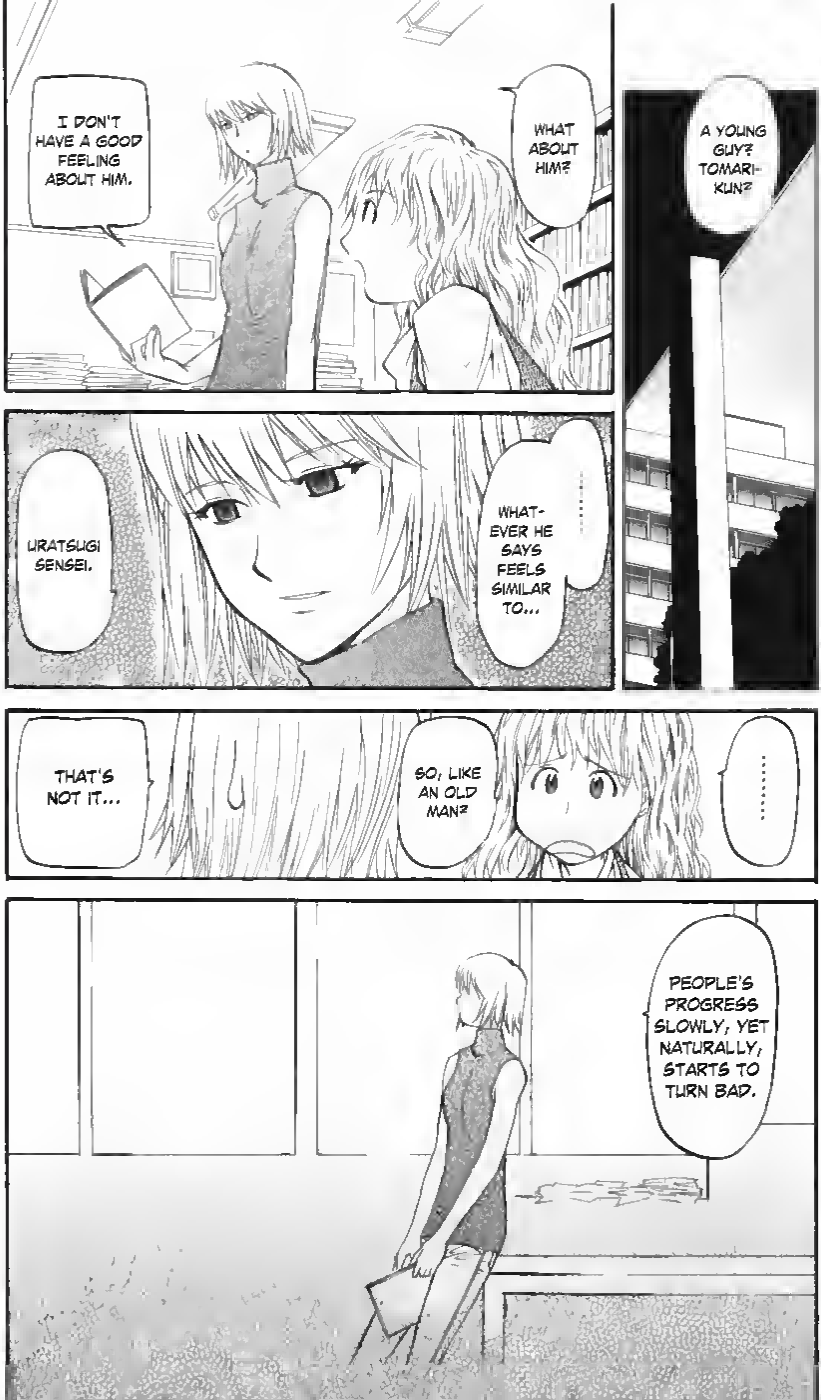
SFX: PULL
WE'VE ALREADY MISSED A STOP!!
WHA?
WE REALLY NEED TO HURRY!!


DON'T GET OFF ON THIS STOP.
U... UM I...
OH,
I SEE.
WOULD BE A LITTLE WEIRD BUT...
MY HOUSE ...
AND KEEP YOU COMPANY AS A THANKS FOR TODAY...
I'LL MAKE DINNER.

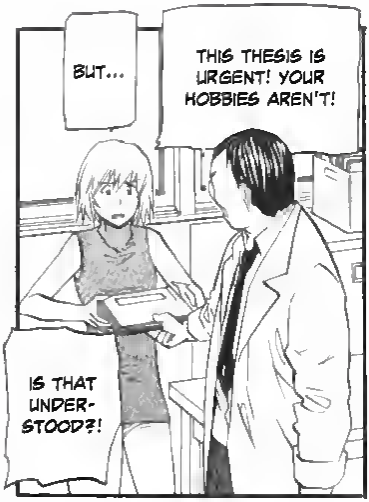
SURE.
YOU LET HIM STAY OVER?!
IN YOUR ROOM?!

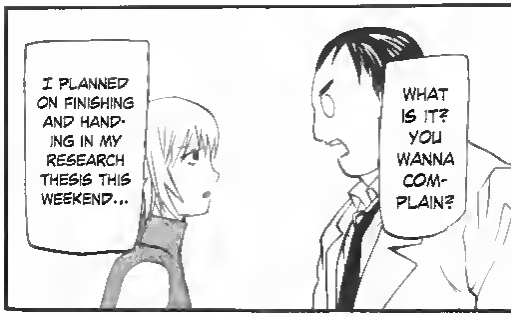
IN THE PROCESS OF BREEDING LOTS OF LARVAE
AND EVEN WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER FOR THREE SECONDS THEIR FACES GO ALL READ AND THEY GO OFF.
YOU'RE ONLY THERE FOR FIVE MINUTES,
GEEZ, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CALM. YOU KNOW, WHEN IT COMES TO GUYS...
AREN'T YOU ALSO THE OLDER FRIEND?
I'M NOT, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE THIS "ACQUAINTANCE" FROM THE UNIVERSITY!!
AND THAT ECCENTRIC WOMAN HAS BEEN SO ECCENTRIC FOR A LONG TIME, YOU TOO...!
WHICH IS WHEN AN ECCENTRIC YOUNG MAN STARTS TO STUDY WITH AN ECCENTRIC YOUNG WOMAN ALL ALONE.
BUT I ALMOST WANT TO CRY WHEN I THINK OF THE BIGGEST HURDLE,
THIS PERSON ...
SOUR...
SOUR...

HMM?
IS YOUR GRANDPA RIGHT?
MY MENTOR.
PROFESSOR URATSUGI.
I WENT TO HIS SEMINARS WHEN I WAS HIS STUDENT.
WHAT ABOUT NOW?
HE DIED AFTER HE RETIRED FROM THE SCHOOL...
SORRY, I ASKED SOMETHING INAPPROPRIATE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...


I DON'T HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT HIM.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
A YOUNG GUY? TOMARI-KUN?
URATSUGI SENSEI.
WHAT-EVER HE SAYS FEELS SIMILAR TO...
.....
THAT'S NOT IT...
SO, LIKE AN OLD MAN?
.....
PEOPLE'S PROGRESS SLOWLY, YET NATURALLY, STARTS TO TURN BAD.

WHY YOU...
WHILE THE RAIN WAS FALLING?
WE HEARD MIZUKI SPEAK FONDLY OF A LOVED ONE.
...WHAT?
HIGASE-KUN!
HUH, I'LL BE THERE IN A MOMENT...
I'M VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW, WHAT ABOUT MY PRECIOUS TIME?!
I TOLD YOU TO COME TO MY ROOM FIRST THING IN THE AFTERNOON!!
KANOU-SENSEI...
ONLY TWO WEEKS?
I NEED THAT THESIS IN TWO WEEKS!!

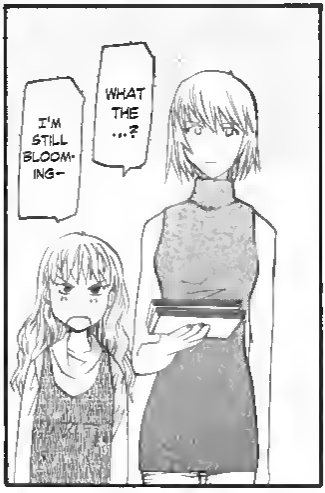

BUT...
THIS THESIS IS URGENT! YOUR HOBBIES AREN'T!
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?!


I PLANNED ON FINISHING AND HANDING IN MY RESEARCH THESIS THIS WEEKEND...
WHAT IS IT? YOU WANNA COMPLAIN?

HE SAID HE'D RECOMMEND ME IF THE STUDY WAS ON A GOOD SUBJECT.
I'VE ALREADY HAD A DISCUSSION WITH THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ABOUT THIS.
WHICH THESIS?!

GOOD.
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OR FAMILY, DON'T LET MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS INTO THE SEMINAR BUILDING WITHOUT PERMISSION.
FURTHERMORE...

STILL GROWING UP.
I REALLY AM...
STILL, A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT.


I'M STILL BLOOMING-
WHAT THE ...?

SORRY, I'LL BE BUSY FOR A WHILE...
YES, AH HAKU-KUN.
RING RING RING
SORRY.
YEAH.

RESIGN?
FROM COLLEGE...?
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
ON DAYS LIKE THIS, I KEEP GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO DO THE RESEARCH I DON'T TOUCH.
AND THIS IS ONLY DUE TO THE GOODWILL OF MY FELLOW PROFESSORS.

SOON MY PLACE HERE WILL NOT EXIST.
THE OTHER PROFESSORS MIGHT ALSO QUIT NEXT...
YOU WILL NOT.
IF YOU NEED HELP, THEN I'LL ALSO...
I'LL SOME-HOW EASE MY WAY INTO LIVING ON MY OWN.
SADLY, IT SEEMS IMPOS-SIBLE TO DO BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER THIS...?
AFTER THIS, YOU MUST WORK HARD FOR YOURSELF TO MAKE A LIVING.
YOU'RE YOUNG AND HAVE TALENT...

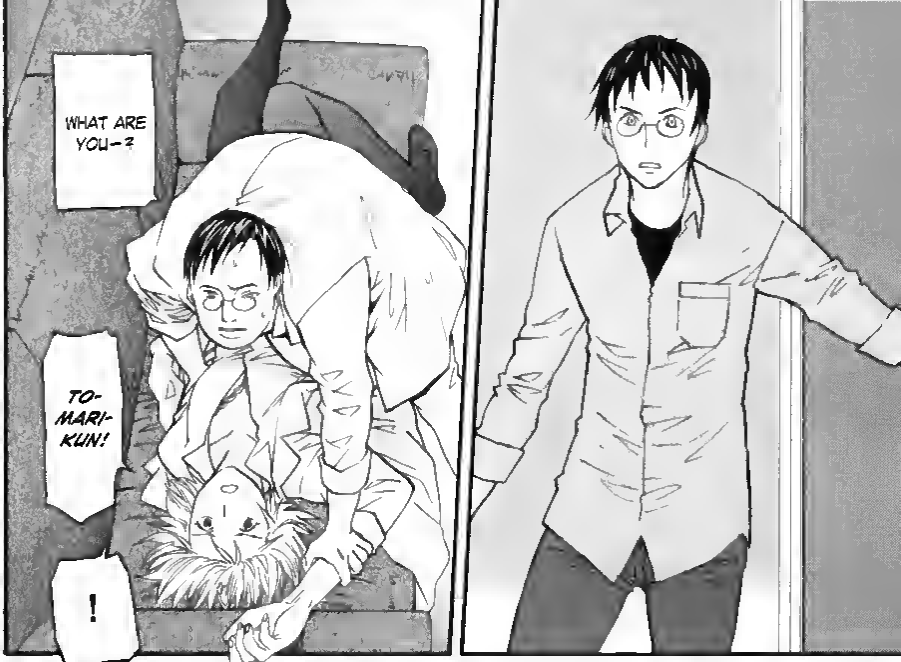
SO FOR EVERYTHING, THANK YOU.
I'M BUMAN-SAN A SENIOR...
YES... UM...
I HAVE A QUES-TION...
ABOUT A JUNIOR I HAD A DATE WITH BUT...
HAD A DATE WITH... LET'S SEE?
AH!
MIZUKI-SAN...

SIGH
YES, SO, ERR, HAVE YOU SEEN MIZUKI-SAN RECENTLY
YA SHE'S BEING FORCED TO TURN IN THIS DREADFUL THESIS SUMMARY TO HER PROFESSOR BUT—
SHE RECENTLY STARTED REJECTING ME WHENEVER I INVITE HER TO COME ANYWHERE... SO I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY ABOUT HER.
SO MIZUKI-SAN DIDN'T EVEN GIVE YOU AN EXPLANATION.
MIZUKI-SAN, YOU MEAN THE SEMINAR ROOM'S HIGASE-KUN?
UH HUH, SANSHIMA-KUN, SHE MUST HAVE GONE TO TALK TO THE PROFESSOR.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF SHE STUDIED WITH HER BOYFRIEND.
HUH?

I'VE HEARD SOME BAD RUMORS ABOUT THAT PROFESSOR...
IT SEEMS HE'S ONE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RELATIVES,
SO HE CAN PRETTY MUCH DO WHATEVER HE WANTS...
!
GORHOU-SAN.
THIS IS THE THESIS YOU REQUESTED.
DO YOU STILL WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT?
THIS AND THAT ARE MY RESEARCH PAPERS

AND LOOK AT IT LATER.
I'LL SET THIS ASIDE,
SFX SLAM
NOW, PLEASE!
SFX CLATTER
LET'S DO IT THIS WAY TO SPEED THIS UP.
HYA!!
KYA!! WHAT ARE YOU...?!
SO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
I UNDER-STAND.
I GET IT.

WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD REMAIN HERE FOR YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?! ARE YOU GOING TO SHOUT?!
WHEN THAT OLD MAN ABANDONED THE UNIVERSITY. YOU ALMOST WENT AND LEFT WITH HIM. AREN'T YOU HAPPY YOU FOUND ME?
SFX SLAM
THIS MUCH PAY IS NORMAL RIGHT? DON'T WORRY, I'M WILLING TO OVERLOOK OUR ARGUMENT OVER YOUR RESEARCH...

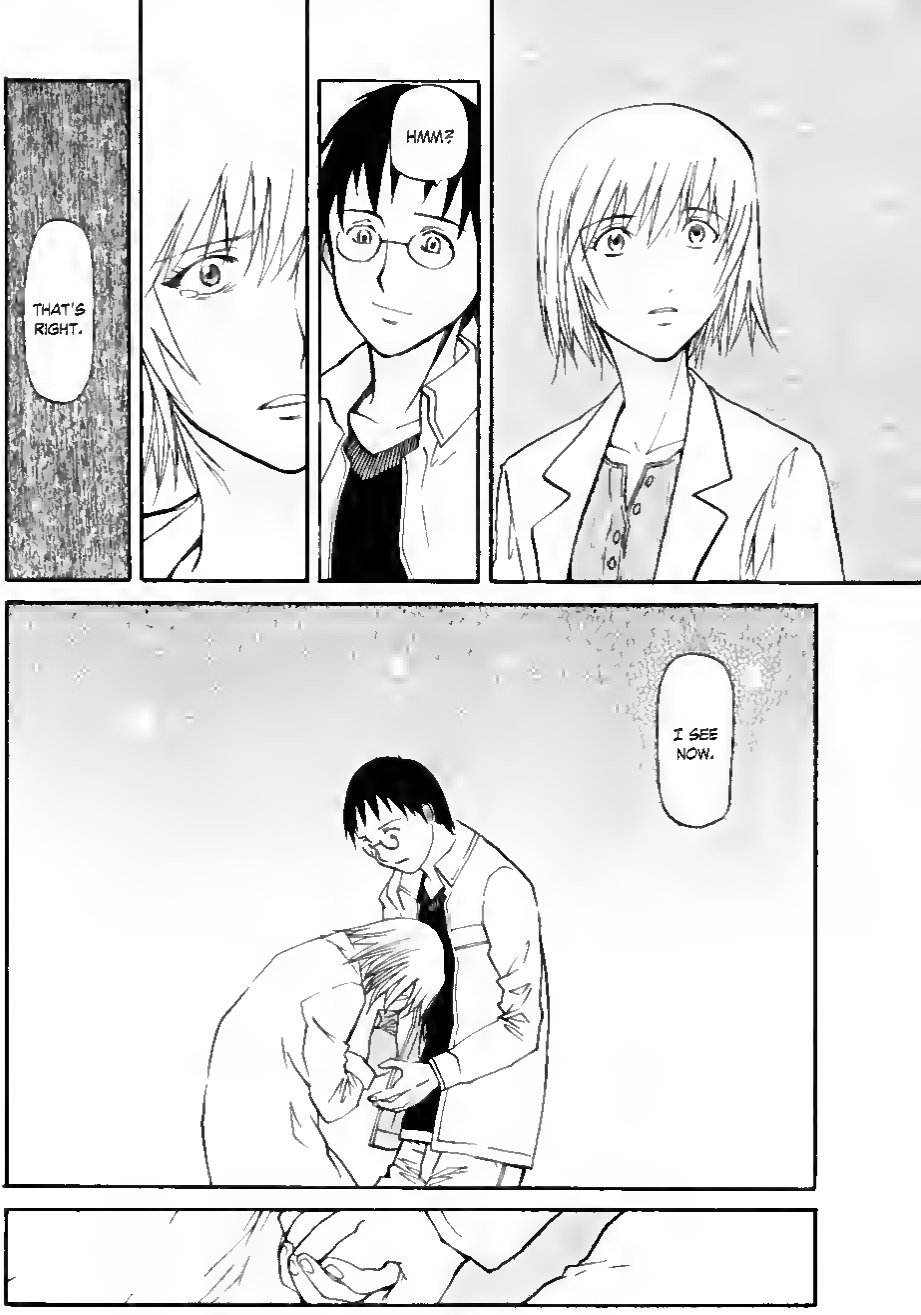

WHAT ARE YOU-?
TO-MARI-KUN!
!

WELL, SINCE HE'S HERE, PLEASE TELL HIM TO...
"GO AWAY"!
IF SO, I'LL...
NO WONDER IT LOOKED LIKE YOU'VE BEEN IN A GOOD MOOD RECENTLY.
AH, THIS IS...

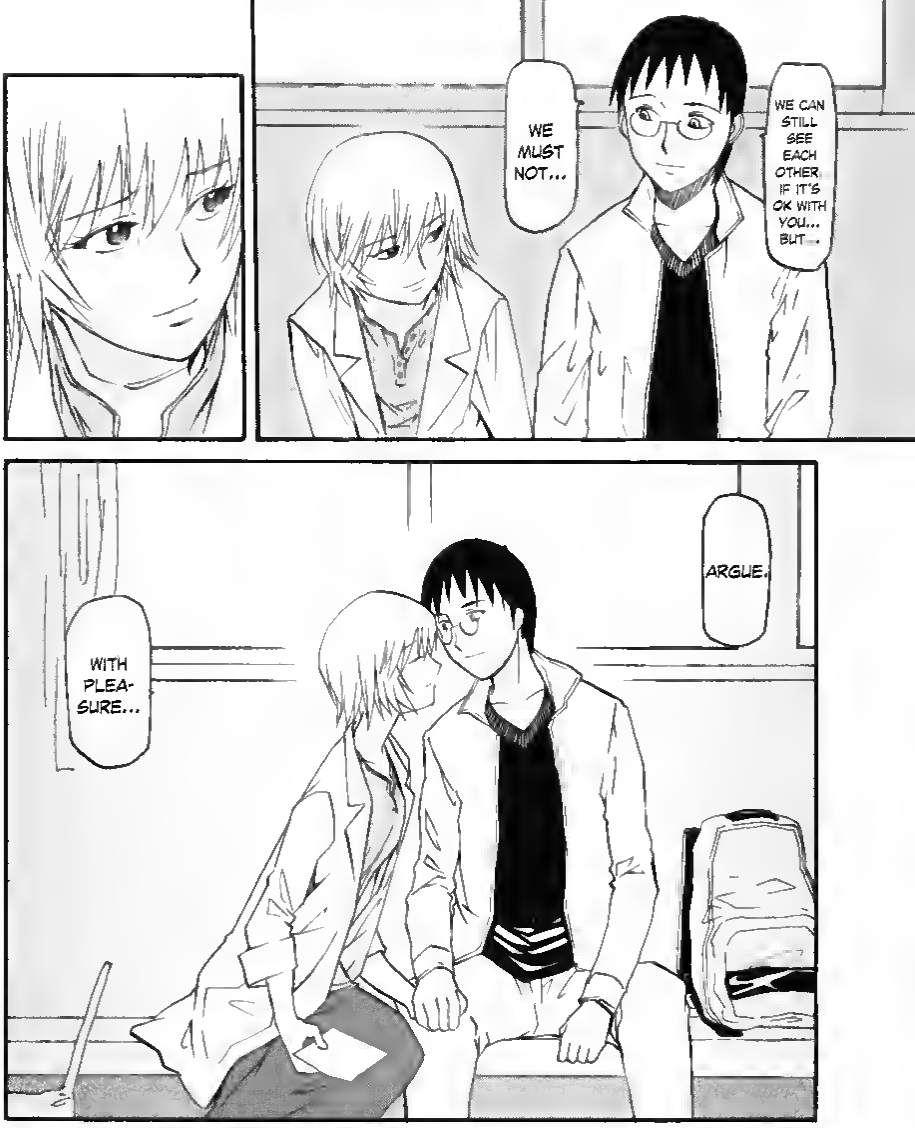
EH?
SFX SMACK
ポカ
QUIT?
WELL, HOW MANY TIMES HAS THE BOARD CHAIRMAN'S RELATIVES GONE OVER THE LIMIT.
HE ALSO HAS AN OVERWHELMINGLY BAD REPUTATION NEAR THE SCHOOL AND WAS SHUNNED AND EXPELLED; IT SEEMS LIKE HE RAN OUT OF EXCUSES.

WHAT'S HIGASE-SAN GOING TO DO AFTER THIS?
WELL, DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK HE'LL ONLY END UP BEING ON HOUSE ARREST BUT...
AND TOMARI?
NO, NO, ALL I COULD DO WAS PUT UP A USELESS STRUGGLE, I...
I'M SORRY, WITHOUT THINK-ING... I...
I ALMOST FEEL LIKE CRYING

IF YOU ALSO LEFT THE UNIVERSITY... AND YOU PASSED AWAY,
I'D ALSO REALLY LIKE TO TAKE UP YOUR RESEARCH.
IT SEEMS YOU'LL BE DRAGGED INTO THE INTERNAL FACTIONAL DISPUTE, PROFESSOR URATSUGI.
I GUESS HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEEM LIKE A BAD PERSON FOR RESENTING SOMEONE.
AND I COULD GET RID OF ANY REGRETS PROFESSOR URATSUGI MAY HAVE HAD.
SO I COULD LOOK BACK AT EVERYONE,
I... SOMEHOW WANT TO REDO THE PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH.


THAT'S RIGHT.
HMM?
I SEE NOW.

I MIGHT ARRANGE THE DEGREE MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTS HERE,
BUT JUST TAKE LIFE EASILY.
I'LL PROBABLY JUST INVITE MY FRIENDS TO THE SEMINAR ROOM.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER THIS?
IS TO REPLACE YOUR FAREWELL GIFT.
UM THIS...
THIS ISN'T A VERY ATTRACTIVE PHOTO OF ME, IS IT?
BUT, YOU'RE STILL CUTE.


WE MUST NOT...
WE CAN STILL SEE EACH OTHER IF IT'S OK WITH YOU... BUT...
ARGUE.
WITH PLEA-SURE...

#3. End

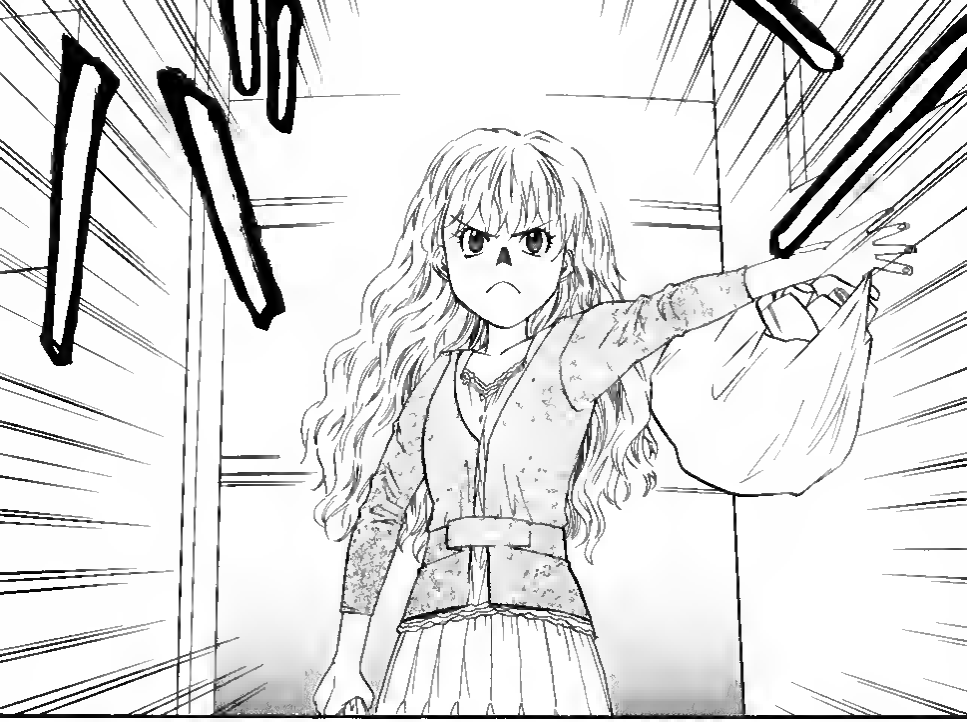
#4 The Chestnut Femme Fatale

MENU

IN THE FIRST PLACE?
HOW DID THINGS END UP LIKE THIS...
UM, UM...
OK, I'LL ASK.
AH, YEAH.
IT'S ALRIGHT. NOT AT ALL.
UH-HUH.
YEAH.
YEAH. GOOD NIGHT.
I'LL WAIT.
OKAY.

FOR HOW LONG?
HMM... I THINK 2 OR 3 DAYS, BUT... SHE DIDN'T REALLY SAY.
AHH, SHE'S AT HER PARENTS' HOUSE TAKING A BREAK FROM EXAMS.
IS KUZUHARA COMING?
WELL ISN'T HE ENTHUSIASTIC...
TO SUCH AN EVENT!
I'M GOING TO WAKE UP...
ゴロゴロ
AH- THAT'S GOOD-
HUH?
I'VE DECIDED!
WHAT-EVER!
THIS IS THE AGE TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC ISN'T IT?

SO IN ORDER FOR THIS APPROACH TO WORK, WE MUST HAVE TIME TO GO DRINKING! WHO'S WITH ME?!
YES!
TOORI-SEMPAI?
I'M ACCEPTING THIS CHALLENGE!
SAME HERE.
I'M RUNNING LOW ON MONEY.
I HAVE A PART TIME JOB...
WELL, I GUESS FOR NOW ANOTHER WAY COULD ALSO BE TO INCLUDE THIS WOMAN...
SO IN THE END IT'S THE USUAL OUTCOME.
OF COURSE.
SO, WHERE'S THE MAIN HEROINE?



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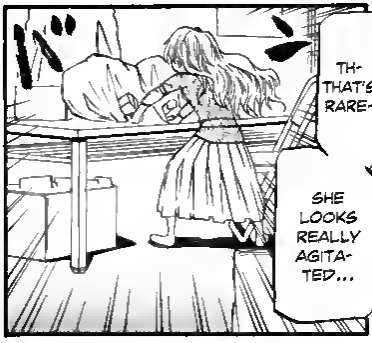
TOORI GOES ON AN EATING SPREE WHEN SHE'S ANGRY.
I'VE ONLY SEEN HER LIKE THIS ONCE.
ISN'T INVITING HER WHEN SHE'S LIKE THIS UNREASONABLE?

AND WHAT'S WITH THAT PILE OF FOOD ...?


バ
TH-THAT'S RARE-
SHE LOOKS REALLY AGITATED...

I'LL GO!
WHAT A BRAVE GUY.
WHAT A WHOLE LOT OF COURAGE.
SO HOW ABOUT IT?
DRINK-ING?
ALL OUT!
EXACTLY, WE SHOULD JUST GO ALL OUT!

超玄房
超玄房

IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GOT THROUGH THE FIRST BARRIER FOR NOW.
ALRIGHT!

WELL, EVERYONE DRINK, DRINK!
BUT...
H-HUH...
YEAH, HERE I GO.
SOMEHOW I NEED TO CHANGE THE ATMOSPHERE... I CAN'T LET IT KEEP GOING LIKE THIS...
SOME-HOW...
ISN'T THE WAY THIS IS GOING A LITTLE RIDICULOUS?
YA! YOU TOO MISHIMA-KUN, HIZUKA-CHIN.
EE-HH?!
LET'S GO SING! LET'S GO SING!
U-UM, I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU, TOORI-SEMPAI...
UM... WE'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY...

ALRIGHT— LET'S GO!
DO YOUR BEST!
WELL, IT'S A LITTLE UNREA-SON-ABLE, BUT..
MENU
WHY IS IT SO TOUGH WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US...
HOW MUCH MORE IS SHE GOING TO DRINK... AND WHAT SONG IS SHE SING-ING...?

THIS ISN'T ANY GOOD, I CAN'T MATCH HER PACE AT ALL...
CLICK
CLICK
KACHIK
THEY HAVE THIS ONE, THIS ONE, THIS ONE, AND THIS ONE AND AFTERWARDS, HAVE ANOTHER MOSCOW MULE.
WAIT, TOILET ...
MY USELESS RESISTANCE CONTINUED...
AND AFTER THAT...
HA-

I SHOULD HAVE TURNED BACK IN THE BEG-INNING...
C...
CUTE.

HELLO, HELL-O.
TOORI-SEMPAI-
ARE YOU THERE-
HEY.
HEY!
HEY! WHAT KIND OF STUPID THINGS AM I THINKING?! WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION?!
UH-HUH, BUT EVEN IF I DID MANAGE TO WAKE HER, IT'S OBVIOUS IT WOULDN'T MAKE THINGS ANY BETTER... RIGHT?
ALTHOUGH, IF I ALSO LEAVE IT LIKE THIS...
SHE WON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SHE GETS UP.

HUH?
A-ANYWAY, IN ORDER TO TAKE SEMPAI OUT OF HERE, I'LL HAVE TO TOUCH HER... RIGHT?
BUT THE ONLY WAY TO GO FROM HERE AT THIS TIME IS BY CALLING A TAXI.
THAT MEANS BURNING MORE MONEY.

EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR AN INSTANT, I WAS CONSIDERING SUCH RUDE THINGS- I SHOULD DIE!!
AAHHGG!

OH, THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE.
HEY, TOORI-SAN? WAKE UP!
SERI-OUSLY...
INCONVE-NIENCING ME TO COME GET YOU DESPITE MY SOCIAL STATUS.
GEEZ!
NN...

AH, NOBU-KUN.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT NOBU-KUN STUFF.
COME HOME!
NO! I'M NOT GOING UNTIL YOU APOLOGIZE!
WHAT?
APOLOGIZE, NOBUAKI YOU IDIOT.
WHAT? ...DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL ANGRY ABOUT YESTERDAY?
SHUT UP!
AH, OK OK, I GET IT, MY BAD.
ALRIGHT, THEN LET'S GO HOME!

SORRY, I PAID SINCE YOU KEPT THIS STUDENT HERE.
UM...
AH,
MENU
OH.

WHO...
WAS THAT GUY?
COME ON...
STILL, YASUSHI-KUN.
EVEN IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, COULDN'T THEY JUST BE FRIENDS?
BUT... I HAVE NO WAY OF CONFIRMING THAT...
DON'T YOU THINK ASKING ABOUT HIM AGAIN WOULD BE WEIRD?
WHY NOT ASK LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL?
AS IF IT WERE UNINTENTIONAL...
I SEE, WELL...
YOU KNOW I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING, RIGHT?
BUT I THINK THE DAMAGE WILL BE WORTH IT...

SO YOU'RE STILL HERE, HUH.
LISTEN UP!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO ACT LIKE A LITTLE KID?
TRY FOCUSING ON YOUR SPORTS!
BUT I...
BE QUIET!
I DON'T KNOW HOW BAD YOU'RE IN LOVE, BUT IT'S OBVIOUSLY HOLDING YOU DOWN!
?
HUH?
AND IT'S ALSO YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY TO SAVE HIM FROM A HIT!

YOU'RE A MAN, RIGHT?
SO YOU WANT TO TELL TOORI YOU LIKE HER IN PERSON?
SO... WHY HAVE YOU COME TO MY PLACE?
I COMPLETELY AGREE WITH YOU, BUT... IF HE DOESN'T, WE'LL BE STUCK IN A SORRY MESS, SO TO SPEAK.
WE'RE VERY SORRY.
AH, SO YOU WANTED MY CONSENT.
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
BESIDES, CAN'T SHE JUST GIVE US HER REPLY IN THE KITCHEN LATER?
WILL YOU BE OK WITH THAT?
BUT YOU, HIRATSUGI.

I'VE BEEN IN COLLEGE FOR THREE MONTHS...
IT'S ALREADY BASKET-BALL SEASON...
I HAVEN'T BEEN WILLING TO DO ANYTHING, SO I'VE JUST BEEN LAZING AROUND.
AH, SORRY.
ガン

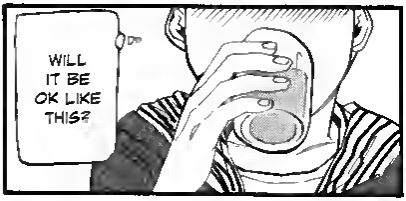
HAA!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS DOING EVERYTHING BY INSTINCT.
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS DOING AT A TIME LIKE THIS, BUT...

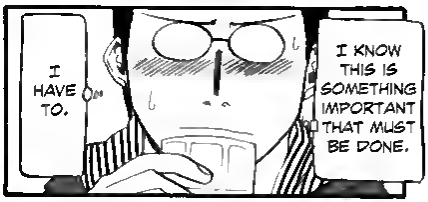
AH, YOU SHOULDN'T ONLY USE THAT HAND. TRY SHOOTING WITH YOUR WHOLE BODY.

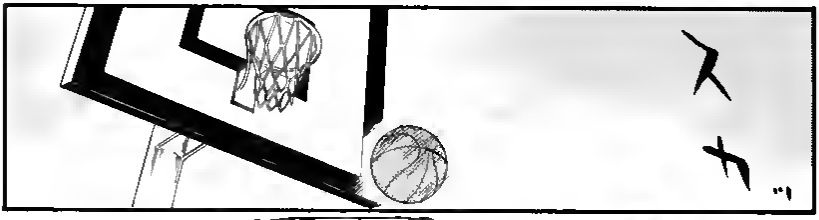
.....
.....
.....

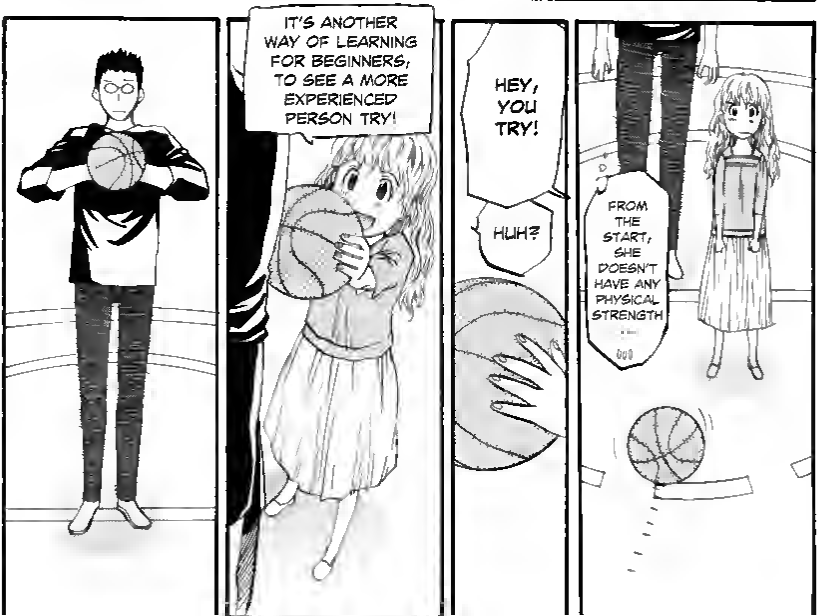
AND YOUR POSTURE SHOULD BE MORE LIKE THIS.
WITH YOUR RIGHT ARM...

AH, THANK YOU.
WELL WELL, JUST BECAUSE OF THAT?


WILL IT BE OK LIKE THIS?


I HAVE TO.
I KNOW THIS IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT MUST BE DONE.



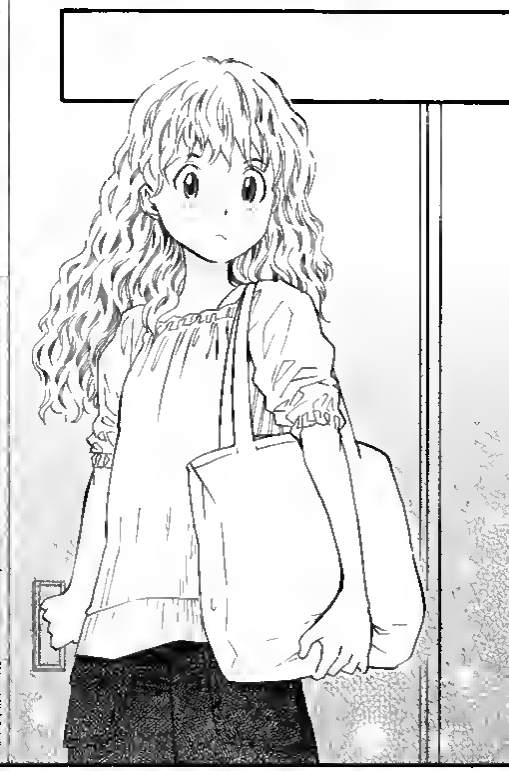

IT'S ANOTHER WAY OF LEARNING FOR BEGINNERS, TO SEE A MORE EXPERIENCED PERSON TRY!
HEY, YOU TRY!
HUH?
FROM THE START, SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PHYSICAL STRENGTH...

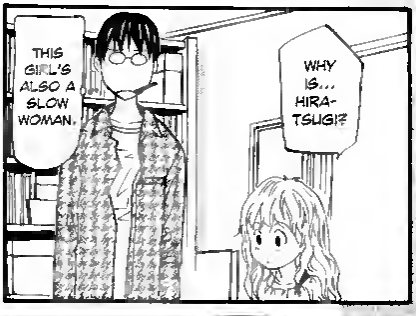
I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN ONE.
I HAVEN'T TOUCHED ONE OF THESE FOR AT LEAST HALF A YEAR...
FROM THAT HORRID PLACE.
IF I REMOVED MYSELF...
WHY DID I CRY OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT VOICE?
AAH,

THIS...
SO FAR, BEING A BASKETBALL PLAYER,
I DECIDED TO DO THE BEST, CLEAN SHOT, BUT...

IT DIDN'T EVEN MAKE ANY NOISE!
AMAZ-ING!
Just brilliant!
Amazing!
Amazing!
MAYBE...
AT THAT TIME... I PROBABLY...

YO.

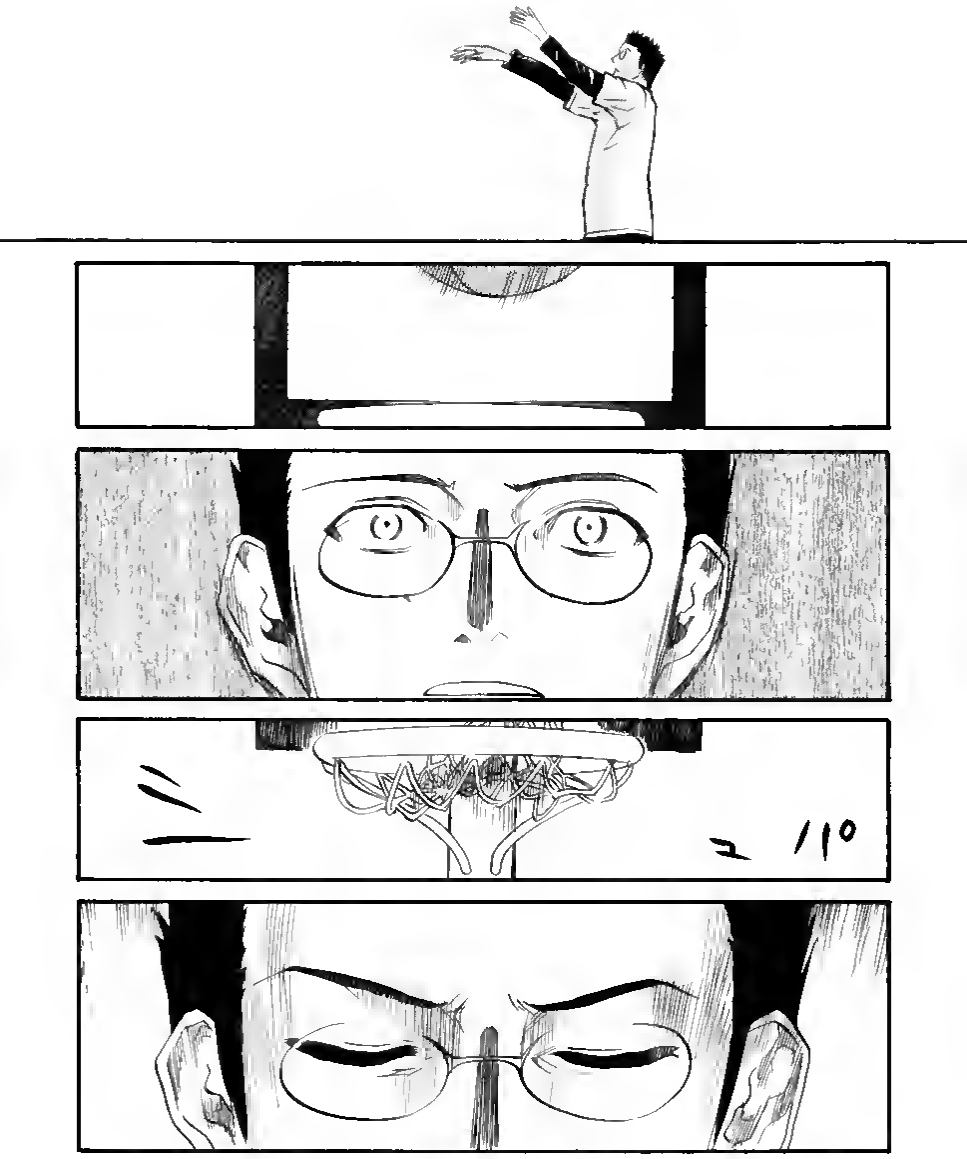


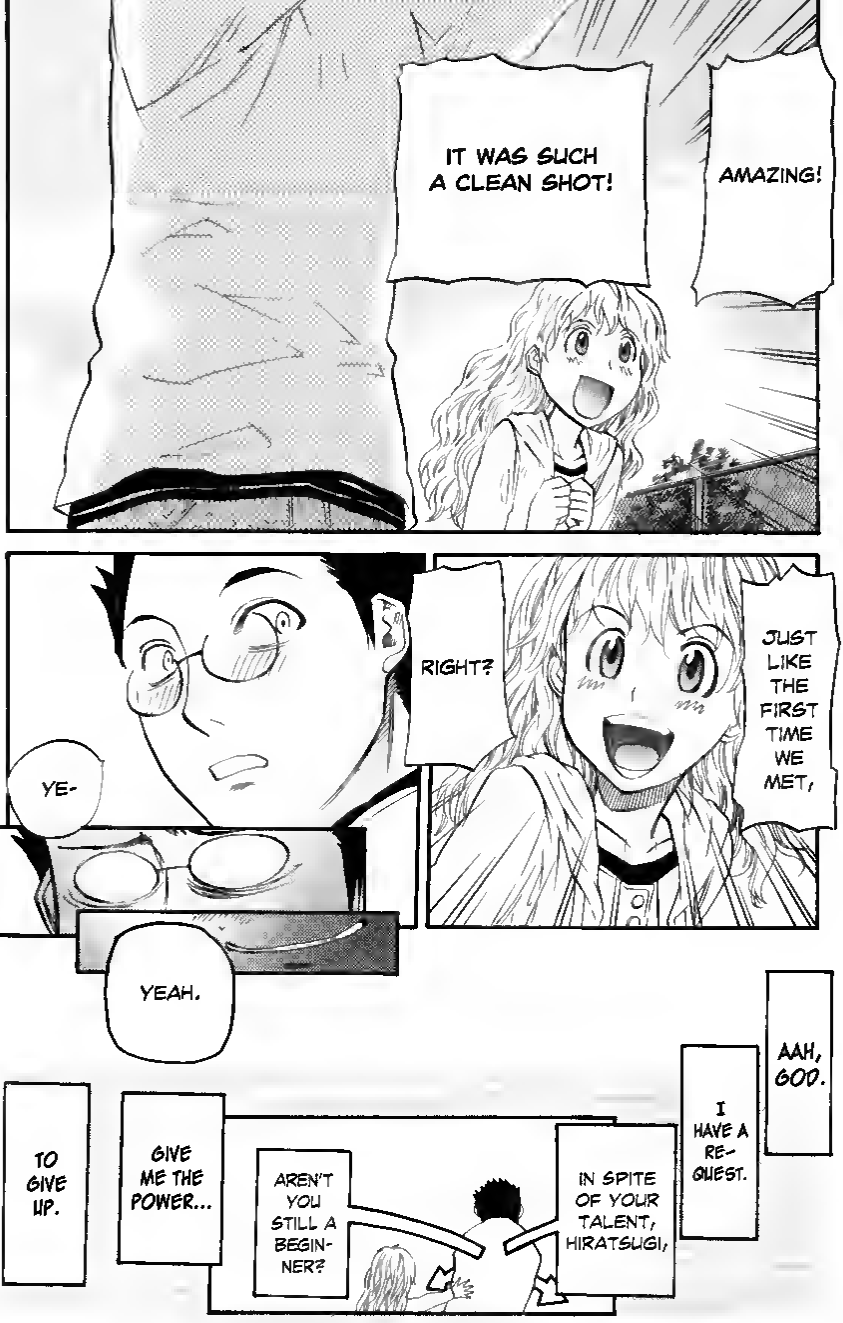

THIS GIRL'S ALSO A SLOW WOMAN.
WHY IS... HIRA-TSUGI!?

NOTHING.
HUH?

TO PART WITH SUCH A GOOD STUDENT...
IS A LITTLE...
WANT TO GO BACK?
NO.
BY ALL MEANS.

.....
IN THE END,
ASK HER ANYTHING.
I DIDN'T...
IT'S CLEAR I COULDN'T DO IT, SO WHY DID I...
I'M REALLY UNREASON-ABLE...
IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME.
THE LAST SHOT.
THIS IS...





Chapter 4 End

#5. DREAM IS OVER

ARE YOU FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL?
DO YOU NEED A GUIDE?

HEY OTOBE, WHEN IS KUZUHARA VISITING?
TODAY! DEFINITELY TODAY!
I'M GOING TO GO MEET HER SINCE SHE ARRIVES AT THE STATION THIS EVENING.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S COMING, RIGHT?
HMM?
HEY, YOU'RE GOING TO INTRODUCE HER TO US RIGHT?
WELL, IF WE HAVE TIME...
TOORI-SAN... ISN'T THAT A LITTLE THOUGHTLESS...?
?

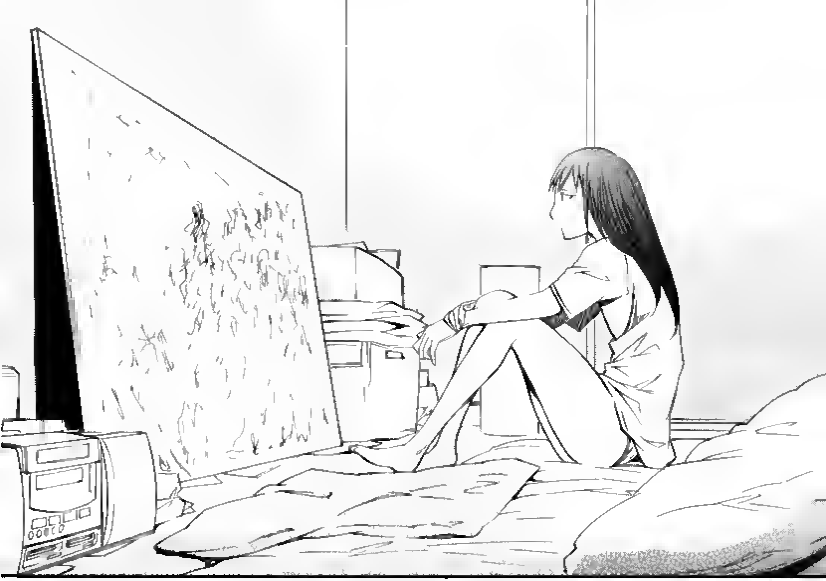
AH, WELCOME BACK.
AH, YASUSHI-KUN
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A PLACE?
IT SEEMS SHE DECIDED TO ARRIVE EARLY.
AND BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THOUGHT I'D TAKE CARE OF HER WHILE SHE LOOKED AROUND YOUR COLLEGE.
NO ONE ASKED YOU TO!
WELL THEN, SHOULD I GO?
UH-HUH...

バタン
BUH-BYE!
WELL, IT WAS FUN.
GUYS, DID IT REALLY SEEM LIKE I WAS WITHOUT INTEGRITY?
SERIOUSLY YOU...
MISHIMA!
カチン!
'SIDES, I'M NOT INTO THIN GIRLS.
DO YOU THINK I'D BARGE INTO MY FRIEND'S PRIVATE MATTERS?
IT DID.
IT DID.
THAT'S...
YASUSHI'S GIRLFRIEND...

THAT GUY?
WHAT DID YOU AND THAT GUY TALK ABOUT?!
SO YOU'RE POUTING HUH?
AH, YOU MEAN MISHIMA-KUN?
HE'S AN INTERESTING PERSON
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU HAVE SUCH A GREAT FRIEND.
?

YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN IT IN FRONT OF ME FOR A WHILE.
YOUR SMILING FACE.
ARE YOU...
JEA-LOUS?
GEEZ.

I HAVE... MADE YOU JEALOUS FOR REAL.
REALLY ...



ARE YOU STILL TAKING YOUR TIME?

DON'T LOOK AT IT!
I'M STILL PAIN-TING!
SLAP

DON'T JUDGE.
I ONLY DRAW WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT, SO THE PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW.
BUT IT TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY TO GET IT DONE.
ARE YOU JUDGING IT?
AFTER I CAME ALL THE WAY TO SEE IT.

I'LL BE IN TIME TO SEE IT COMPLETED...
I WONDER IF...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
.....

WHAT'S WRONG, YASUSHI-KUN?
KUZUHARA, MY GIRL-FRIEND,
IS GOING TO STUDY ABROAD.
HU-H?
IN THIS CASE, GERMANY.
REALLY?
LÖWENBRÄU

NO, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT BUT...
WAS YASUSHI-KUN DUMPED?
AREN'T TOKYO AND GERMANY COMPLETELY DIFFERENT?
WELL, OF COURSE
WELL, EVEN THOUGH RIGHT NOW IT'S A LONG DISTANCE THING.
BUT THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET UP.
OTOBE-KUN...

TELL ME SO SUDDENLY...
BUT WHY DID SHE...
IT COULD BE FOR A LONG TIME OR NOT.
WELL,
TRUE, BUT I HAVE NO FUTURE AT THAT SCHOOL EVEN THOUGH I'VE DONE MY BEST TO BE A CELLIST THERE.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO QUIT SCHOOL, RIGHT?
HE'S IN CHARGE OF MY DEPARTMENT.
TO MAKE IT MORE COMPLICATED,
THE POINT IS THAT I'VE GOTTEN INTO TROUBLE WITH THE PROFESSOR IN CHARGE.
AS FOR ME, I WON'T BOW DOWN...
BESIDES, THIS PROFESSOR'S WAY IS OLD FASHIONED AND HE'S QUITE STUBBORN.

I GOT AN INVITATION AND A CHANCE TO GO TO EUROPE FROM MY SENPAI.
SO IT SEEMS YOU COULD ALSO SAY THAT I'M AT A STALE-MATE...
WELL, TALK ABOUT RETURNING HOME...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?
IT'S NOT LIKE I WENT HEAD OVER HEELS, I'M JUST TAKING MY CHANCE TO BE HAPPY.
IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN ME, I MIGHT NOT RETURN HOME
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
THEY WERE RELUCTANT, BUT THEY GAVE ME THEIR PER-MISSION.
SO YOU'RE ALREADY SET ON THIS, AREN'T YOU.

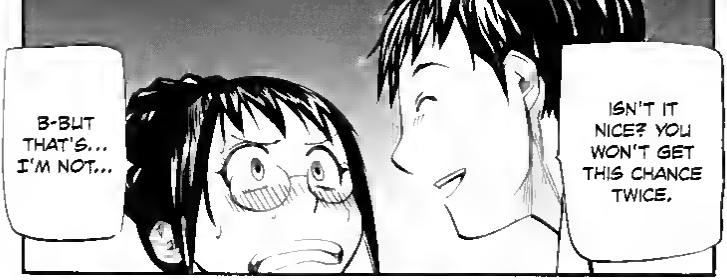
IT'D BE POINT-LESS, RIGHT?
IF I ASKED YOU NOT TO GO,
WELL, YES.
YEAH.
DO YOU PLAN ON COMING BACK?
.....

IF I WERE TO PLAN TO IT DEPENDS ON THE DE-VELOPMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS
FOR NOW,
HUH
SO...

I AL-
READY
KNOW!
SUCH A
SELFISH
WOMAN!
WHAT THE
HECK IS "SO
I GUESS WE
SHOULD
BREAK UP."
SHE MADE
A FOOL OUT
OF ME.
HEY
SISTER,
GET ME
ANOTHER
BEER!
YOU
MAKING
FUN OF
ME?!
I'VE
HAD
ENOUGH!
WE'RE
DATING!
SHE SHOULD AT
LEAST CONSIDER IT
AS SOMETHING WE
NEED TO DECIDE
TOGETHER, RIGHT?
WELL,
ALSO!
I SHOULDN'T
BE THE LAST
PERSON TO
KNOW, RIGHT?
BUT NO!
I WAS
THE LAST!

I GUESS...
AT THIS POINT, IT'S JUST APPROPRIATE IF SHE CONSIDERED VARIOUS THINGS LIKE COMPROMISE, DEDICATION, COMPLICATIONS, SEX, ANXIETY, AND BONDS, RIGHT?
THAT HAS TO BE IT!
AFTER ALL, SHE ONLY LIKED ME FOR THINGS LIKE MY PICTURES AND MY ABILITIES!
SHIT!
STUPID AYA!

HEY, WAKE UP, YASUSHI! YOU WANNA CATCH A COLD?!
AH-!
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED AT A TIME LIKE THIS
THAT WAS ROUGH.
HUH!? YOU'RE ASKING ME?!
HIZUKA-SAN, WILL YOU SEE HIM HOME?
YEAH.
THAT'D WORRY ME
WELL, WE COULD DO THAT BUT...
WHAT DO WE DO? THROW HIM INTO A CAB?


B-BUT THAT'S... I'M NOT...
ISN'T IT NICE? YOU WON'T GET THIS CHANCE TWICE.

COME ON.

MA'AM! WILL HE VOMIT IF WE TAKE A TURN?
AH, YES, I UNDERSTAND. WE'LL GO AS FAR AS SOUTH STREET...
WALK PROPERLY...
CAN YOU GET IN THE TAXI!?
COME ON OTOBE-KUN...

WELL, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER NOT TO JUMP TO ANY KIND OF CONCLUSIONS?
IT'S FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.
YOU VILLAIN!
I FIND PEOPLE'S PRIVATE STUFF WITH STRAINED ATMOSPHERES DISAGREEABLE.
YOU MAY SAY SO, BUT YOU'RE JUST A NOBODY; WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
HUH?
...
SAKIHARA-SAN?
OH
♫
WELL, YOU TWO
I'LL BE OFF FIRST.

I GUESS IT REALLY CAN'T BE HELPED.
EVERY-ONE'S DOING WHATEVER THEY PLEASE.
AH, UM, TOORI-SAN, SINCE IT'S DANGER-OUS GOING BY YOUR-SELF... CAN I SEE YOU OFF?
AH, YOU'RE WELCOME TO SINCE YOU ASKED.

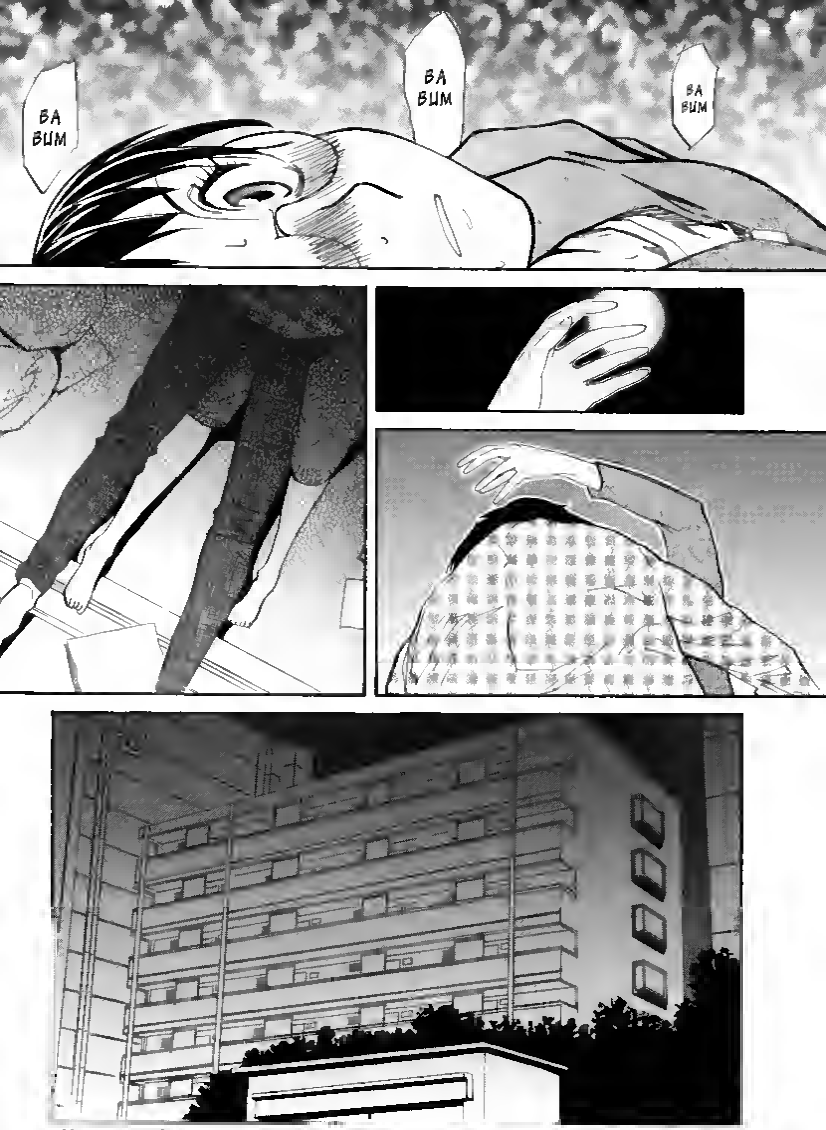
AH...
THAT'S RIGHT...
DO YOU ALSO WANT TO RIDE TOGETHER WITH US?
N, NO...
I NEED TO WALK A LITTLE MORE AND SOBER UP.
SO...
THAT'S OK.

ブオォ
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OH, OTOBE-SAN, SINCE WE'VE REACHED YOUR MANSION...
PLEASE JUST WALK A LITTLE MORE.

AH... UM, THE KEY...
AH-
WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP OUR SHOES ON... EXCUSE ME.
TRIP
ドタ

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
NN
NN
NN
NN
JUST A LITTLE MORE..
OH
KYAA!!!

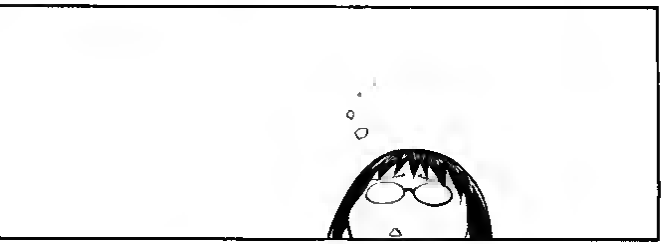
BU BUM
BU BUM
BU BUM
BU BUM
BU BUM
BU BUM
YASU...
AH...
SHI...


BA BUM
BA BUM
BA BUM

6.

In the middle of hesitation.

ズキ ズキ
URRGH!
SFX: THKOB THKOB
UGH
SFX: SNIFFS
Was it something I ate?
WHAT'S THIS UNFAMILIAR SCENT...



SFX: STAGGERS

SFX: SLAM

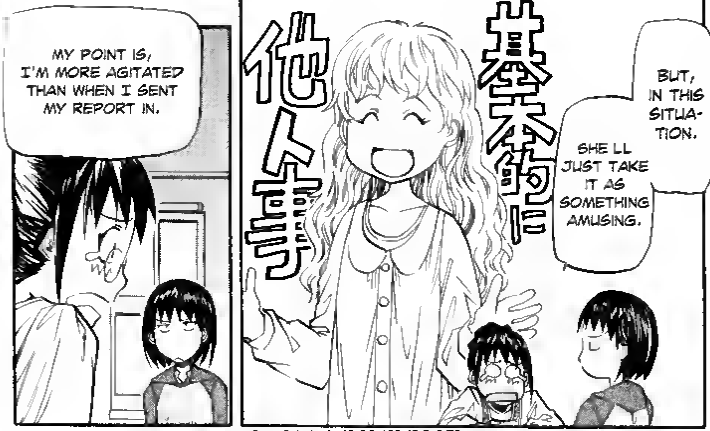
SFX. THROBS THROBS

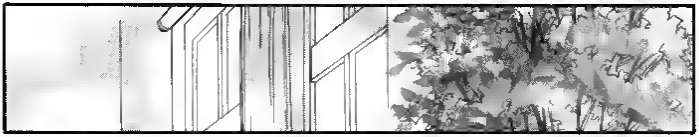
Aargh, what's actually troubling me...
THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO MAKE HEAD OR TAILS OF IT...
SOMETHING AMAZING IS GOING AROUND INSIDE MY HEAD
IT PUTS ASIDE MY MUTUAL DISCOMFORT AND ANXIETY.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP...

SCENT IS...
THE PERFUME'S
SFX: GETS UP
THIS ISN'T A PLACE WHERE I BELONG...
I SO-BERED UP IN AN INSTANT...

IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE A MISERABLE PERSON.
NOR THE IMPOSSIBLE FORCE TO START SOMETHING...
I NEITHER HAD THE ENERGY.
I SEE...
HMM...
MAIHARA'S SECOND APPEARANCE (MISHIMA'S FIRST GIRLFRIEND) HER NEW HAIRDO MADE HER LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE...
I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU TALKED ABOUT THIS WITH TOORI-SAN.
BUT WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

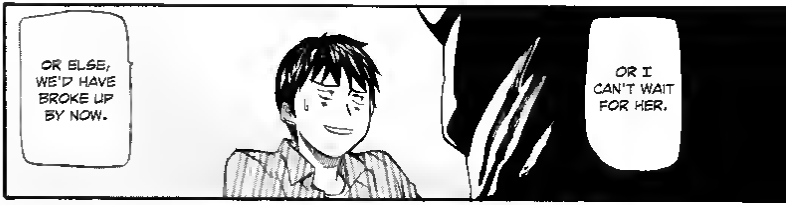

MY POINT IS, I'M MORE AGITATED THAN WHEN I SENT MY REPORT IN.
基本的に
他人事
BUT, IN THIS SITUATION.
SHE LL JUST TAKE IT AS SOMETHING AMUSING.


BG BASICALLY IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S AFFAIR.

UGH
AFTER THIS?
AFTER THIS?!
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN
THE QUESTION IS ON YOU!
WELL THEN...

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HERE?
DON'T YOU WANT TO CLEAR THINGS UP?
HOW ABOUT A RE-MATCH?
OR WILL YOU JUST GIVE UP?
SFX: BANG BANG
SHE NEEDS TO SNAP OUT OF IT!
IS THAT TRUE?!
THAT...
but it won't come instantly
WELL, THE ANSWER LIES WITHIN YOU...
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT AT THE TIME!
HOWEVER, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH A GUY WHO ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND IN TOW.

SO, YOUR GIRLFRIEND WILL GO, EH?
AND SHE'LL STAY THERE FOR THREE YEARS.
WITH THE CHANCE THAT IT'LL BE LONGER.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
CAUSE SHE'S A FICKLE PERSON.
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE DIDN'T ASK ME TO GO
DON'T TELL ME I SHOULD JUST GO WITH HER WITHOUT ANY REASON.


OR ELSE, WE'D HAVE BROKE UP BY NOW.
OR I CAN'T WAIT FOR HER.

WHEN YOU REPEAT WHAT YOU SAID HERE IN THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU REGRET YOUR WORDS.
IT WAS GOOD THAT YOU DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING STUPID
IS THAT HOW YOU REALLY FEEL?

IS THIS FOR YOUR NEXT WORK?
WELL...
PRETTY MUCH... THE COMPOSITION NEEDS TO BE CHANGED, THOUGH.
BECAUSE I'M DOING A COMMERCIAL ILLUSTRATION, I HAVE VARIOUS CONSTRAINTS LIKE THE DESIGN AND THE LOCATIONS.
ESPECIALLY THIS ONE FUSSY REQUEST...
THIS WORLD DOESN'T HAVE MUCH FREEDOM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S NORMAL.
DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND USED HER CONFRONTATION WITH HER PROFESSOR AS HER REASON TO QUIT SCHOOL?
THERE'S NOT MUCH FREEDOM IN THE UNIVERSITY. AM I RIGHT?

THAT'S...
RIGHT...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH A GUY WHO ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND IN TOW
IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD HELP IT, RIGHT?
SINCE HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND, IT'LL BE EASIER FOR ME TO GIVE UP
THAT REMINDS ME OF WHEN I JUST CAME FROM A WELCOMING PARTY ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO...

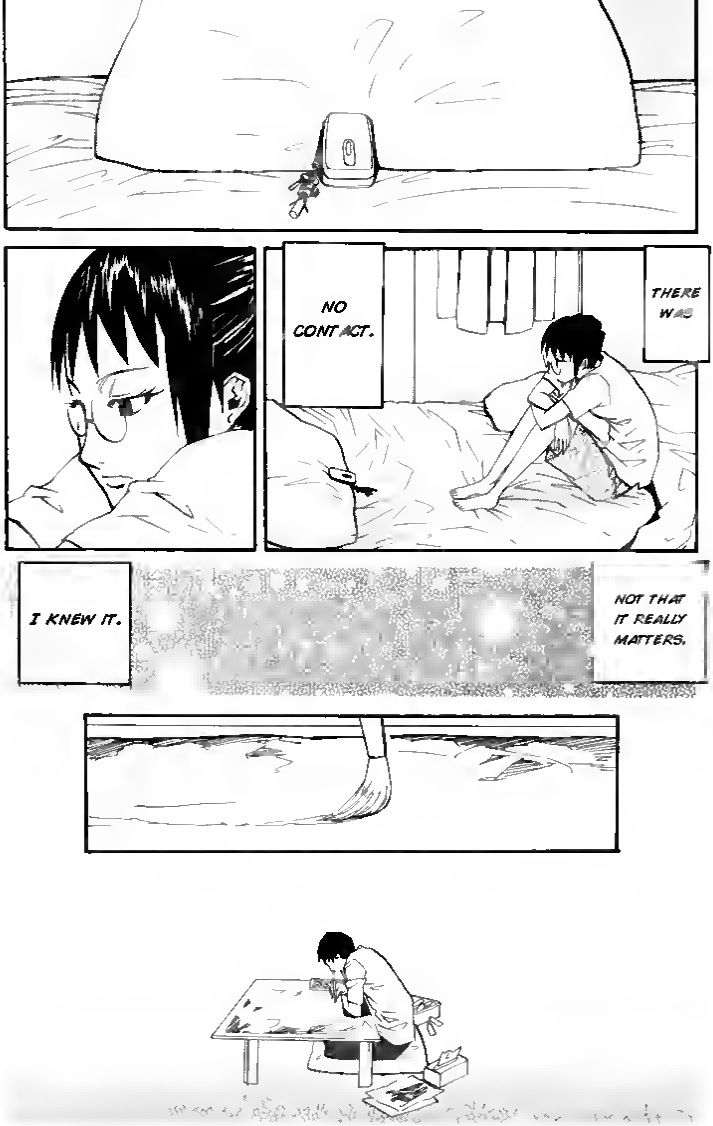
THERE WAS AN ART GALLERY IN THE NATURAL PARK WE DROVE TO.
IT WAS BIG, BUT THERE WEREN'T MANY EXHIBITION ITEMS, SO WE JUST WALKED AROUND.
WE COULDN'T STOP CHATTING FROM THE MOMENT WE ENTERED.
OTOBE-KUN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO STARED AT A PAINTING WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS.

PERHAPS, THAT'S HOW IT STARTED...
OH, YOU'RE HERE,
YA-SUSHI-KUN?

DIDN'T HIZUKA-CHIN TAKE YOU HOME?
HUH?
TOORI-SAN
OH!
SO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
I was alone when I woke up
I DON'T REMEMBER, WHAT ARE YOU...?
WHA?
I SHOULD SAY ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
CRAP...
YA. SU. SHI-KU~N?

WAS FOR REAL?
SO THAT SEEMINGLY REAL FEELING I REMEMBER...
click
click
click
BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
SHOULD I CALL HER?

SFX: ROLLS ROLLS ROLLS


NO CONTACT.
THERE WAS
I KNEW IT.
NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS.

WE NEED TO TALK...
WELL...
IT'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE DRINKING PARTY LAST WEEKEND...
I'M SORRY!

HUH?
SOMEHOW, IT WAS I WHO TOOK YOU HOME AFTER THE DRINKING PARTY... I WAS STAGGERING AS WELL.
YOU HAD COLLAPSED AND ALREADY TAKEN A FEW BLOWS...
IN THE END, I JUST LEFT YOU THERE AND WENT BACK HOME... I'M SO SORRY.
AH... IT'S OKAY.
UHM... DID YOU AND AYA START DATING IN HIGH SCHOOL?
HUH? WHY?
AH, NO, JUST CURIOUS...
IT WAS AT THE ART FESTIVAL, IN MY 2ND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.

HEY, THIS PAINTING.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO DREW IT?

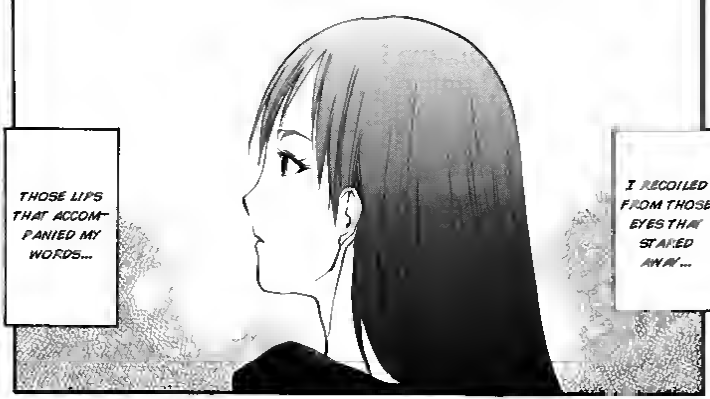
WHY DID...
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT...
I SEE.
IS THAT SO?
IT'S A GOOD ONE.
THIRTY MINUTES STARING AT MY PAINTING.
AND THEN AYA SPENT

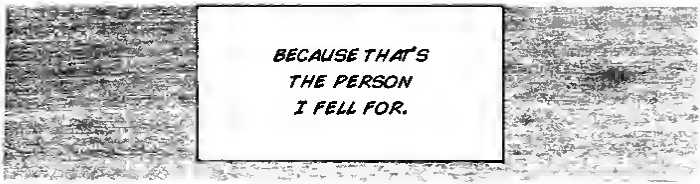
I HAD MY EYES ON HER.
AND THUS, DURING THAT TIME
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
IT'S LIKE WE KNEW FROM THAT MOMENT,
THAT WE'D HAVE A RELA-TION-SHIP.

EVEN IN THE FUTURE?
THAT'S RIGHT,
I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT EVENTUALLY.
ENOUGH.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
HIZUKA?

IT'S NOT BECAUSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE LOOK ON HER FACE AT THAT TIME.


THOSE LIPS THAT ACCOMPANIED MY WORDS...
I RECOILED FROM THOSE EYES THAT STARED AWAY...


BECAUSE THAT'S THE PERSON I FELL FOR.

!?
!!
?
SO IT'S NOT BECAUSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

I'M CONNECTED TO THEM.
AS FOR THINGS THAT KEEP ME GOING...
IF I DETACH MYSELF FROM THEM.
I THINK THAT I CAN'T MOVE FORWARD
THEREFORE, I...

#6 End

Last. Beyond Dream.

DO YOU KNOW WHY, MISHIMA KUN?
I HAVE NOT SEEN YASUSHI-KUN AROUND LATELY?
HEY, WHY IS IT THAT ...
WELL ..
HA HA HA.
WHY ARE YOU SO COLD?
AREN T YOU GUYS FRIENDS?
SOMEHOW, IT'S LIKE THE LAST OF THE MALICE HAS PASSED OVER HIM...
I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE ..

MALICE?
GASP
SFX: RUBS
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT LYING DOWN FOR A BIT...
OUCH, OUCH.
WELL NOW, I SHOULD TRY MY BEST...

I'VE TOLD HIM TO UNSEAL AND UNSHEATHE HIS INNER STRENGTH, DON'T YOU AGREE?
TO SUM IT UP...
WHEN HE'S PLEASED WITH HIS WORK, HE'LL HYPERFOCUS AND IGNORE EVERYTHING ELSE
WEAPON?
THAT'S HIS SITUATION.
I WONDER IF IT'S REALLY LIKE THAT
HOW ABOUT YOU, NOBU-KUN?

I'M ALL OVERFLOWING WITH CHARM.
LOOK AT ME.
ME?
WELL PUT.
ANYHOW! HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE WE LAST MET?
IT DOESN'T MATTER? WHAT THE HECK?
HUH? YOUR DEPARTURE IS ON THE 21ST? IT'S A WEEKDAY, SO I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SEE YOU OFF.

DING DONG
YOUR LAST WEEKEND IS FOR YOUR PARENTS? KAY... BYE.
NO... I JUST FINISHED
YOU'RE ON THE PHONE? DID I DISTURB YOU?
HUH?
HERE; I BROUGHT THIS FOR YOU. ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?
THIS?
NO, I FORGOT SOME STUFF
At least I can still move...
I WONDER...
CAUSE EVER SINCE BACK THEN, YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN YOUR DREAM.

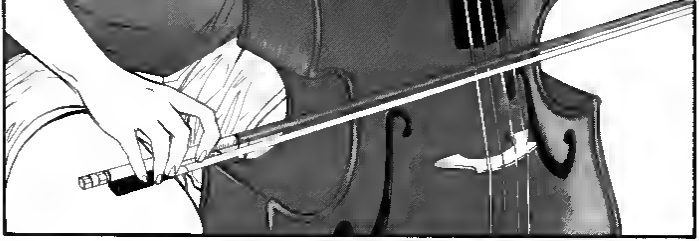
WORK OF THAT LEVEL IS JUST LIKE SOME LAYMAN'S WORK.
SLAM
AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE REALLY TALENTED.
AWE-SOME.
WELL ...
I SEE... IS THAT SO.
I WAS JUST IN THE DISTRICT'S PRELIMINARY AND THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
BUT YOU'RE AT LEAST HAVING FUN, AREN'T YOU?
SO IT SEEMS.
Thank you for the meal!

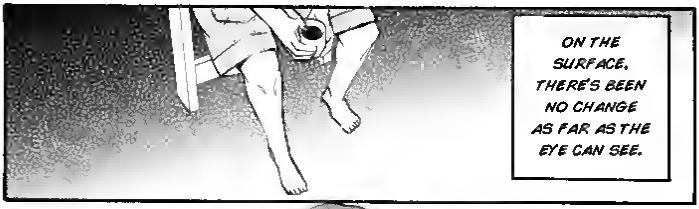
BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT YOU LIKE.
IF IT'S THE CLUB ROOM, THERE'LL BE LOTS OF PEOPLE BUSTLING AROUND.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD MAKE SOME CHANGES RIGHT NOW?
FOR STARTERS, SOMETHING TO PLEASE YOUR CLIENT.

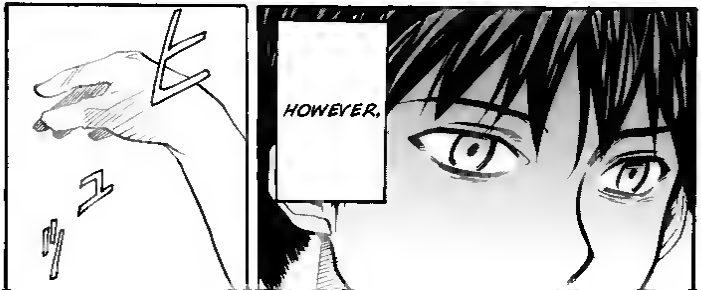
IS THAT SO...

A GIRL SHOULDN'T BE OUT ALONE AT THIS HOUR
HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
SURE.
I shall keep it moderate

WHAT ONCE STOPPED, HAS BEGUN MOVING AGAIN.
AND SLOWLY,



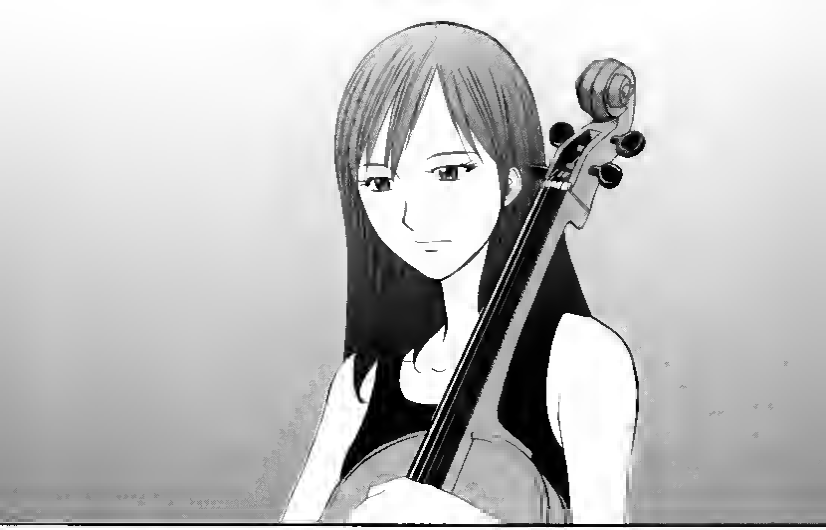

ON THE SURFACE, THERE'S BEEN NO CHANGE AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.

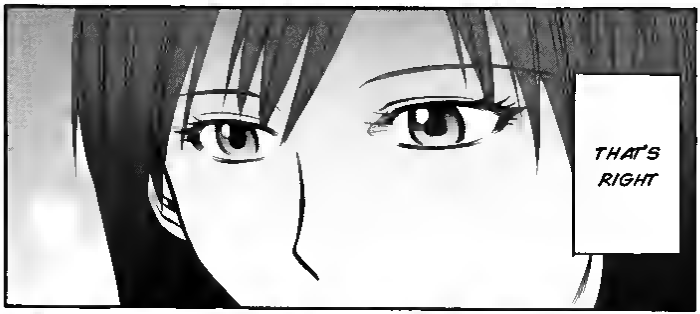

HOWEVER,

I SHOULD BEGIN ONCE AGAIN.
You're easygoing as well
SWISH
WHAT'S INSIDE MY HEART HAS STARTED TO CHANGE.
I THINK, LITTLE BY LITTLE
YA'S CELLO IS...

IT SOUNDED LIKE BLUE.
BLUE?
LIKE THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA,
OR THE FARTHEST CORNER OF THE SKY.
THAT KIND OF DEEP BLUE.

YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT PECULIAR THINGS.




THAT'S RIGHT

THE PERSON WHO MENTIONED THOSE PECULIAR THINGS.
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE HIM ON MY MIND.

AT ANY RATE, I'M FINALLY DONE!
I SHOULD CUT THE CHATTER ...
IT'S COM-PLETE!
SFX: RUSTLE
UGH, IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE?!
WILL I MAKE IT IN TIME AFTER ALL?
SFX: SLAM

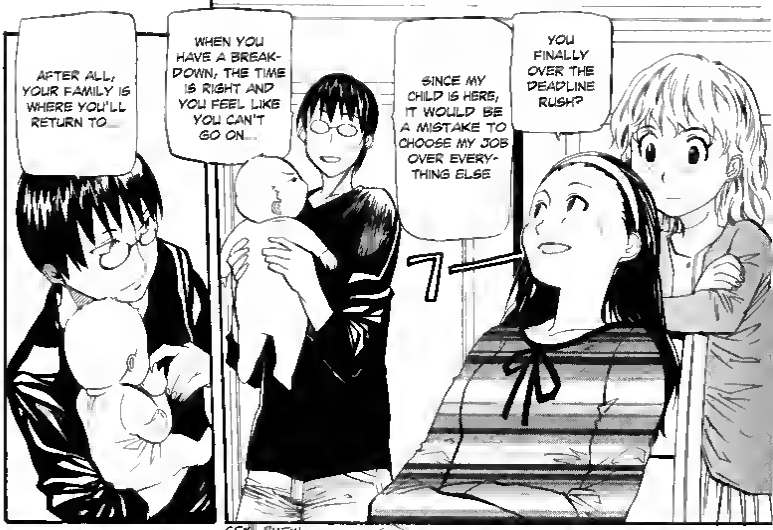
CRAP!
AT THIS HOUR, MY BEST SHOT IS TO TRAVEL BY TAXI.
DA-AMN!
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND ALL THIS TIME, BUT I STILL HAVE NO IDEA IF THERE ARE EVEN ANY CARS OUT HERE!
PANT
PANT
PANT
WHY AREN'T THERE ANY CARS?!
PANT
PANT
PANT
WHAT THE?!

TODAY'S LAST TRAIN LEFT ALREADY, YOU CAN'T MAKE IT IN TIME THAT WAY.
HONK
HONK
WANT A RIDE?
I'LL TAKE YOU TO TOKYO.

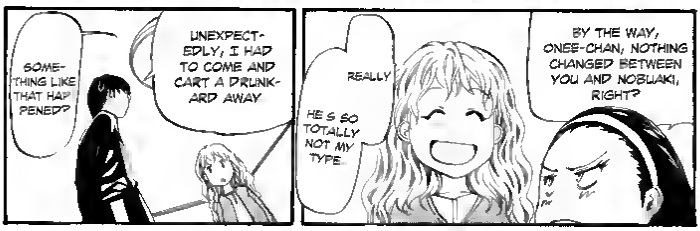
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE IT?
ARE YOU A BIT JEALOUS?

I WAS JUST GUESSING..
WHAT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT AS ANNOYED AS YOU APPEAR TO BE.
SFX: STARES
SERIOUSLY..
MY, MY,

GARA.
WEL-COME HOME.
YOU'RE PRETTY LATE.
THERE WEREN'T ANY TAXIS TO CATCH.
I'M HOME.
ARE YOU OKAY, NOT TOO TIRED?
WELL, I CAN'T REALLY WALK DOWN THIS STREET AGAIN UNTIL I'M BACK TO NORMAL.
WERE FATHER AND THE OTHERS OKAY?
HE AND EVERYONE ELSE WERE DELIGHTED WHEN HIS GRAND-CHILD CAME TO ACCOMPANY HIM.
HEY, SEISHO, HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN YOUR FATHER'S FACE?


AFTER ALL, YOUR FAMILY IS WHERE YOU'LL RETURN TO...
WHEN YOU HAVE A BREAK-DOWN, THE TIME IS RIGHT AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T GO ON...
SINCE MY CHILD IS HERE, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CHOOSE MY JOB OVER EVERY-THING ELSE
YOU FINALLY OVER THE DEADLINE RUSH?

SFX: CHEW
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL ASK FOR A FEE?
HA HA HA, DON'T GET SO PROUD NEXT TIME.
LOOKS LIKE ONEE-SAN HAS BECOME AN ANNOYANCE AS WELL.


SOME-THING LIKE THAT HAP-PENED?
UNEXPECT-EDLY, I HAD TO COME AND CART A DRUNK-ARD AWAY
REALLY
HE'S SO TOTALLY NOT MY TYPE.
BY THE WAY, ONEE-CHAN, NOTHING CHANGED BETWEEN YOU AND NOBUAKI, RIGHT?

AS I THOUGHT, YOUR ONEE-CHAN IS A LONELY FIGURE
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE IS ALWAYS BEEN A NATURAL-BORN MAN EATER.
LOOKS LIKE IT ...
THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENT LOOKED LIKE HE THOUGHT THAT TOORI AND I ARE DATING.
IT'S BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT MISUNDER-STANDINGS...
IS IT OKAY?
PANT
PANT

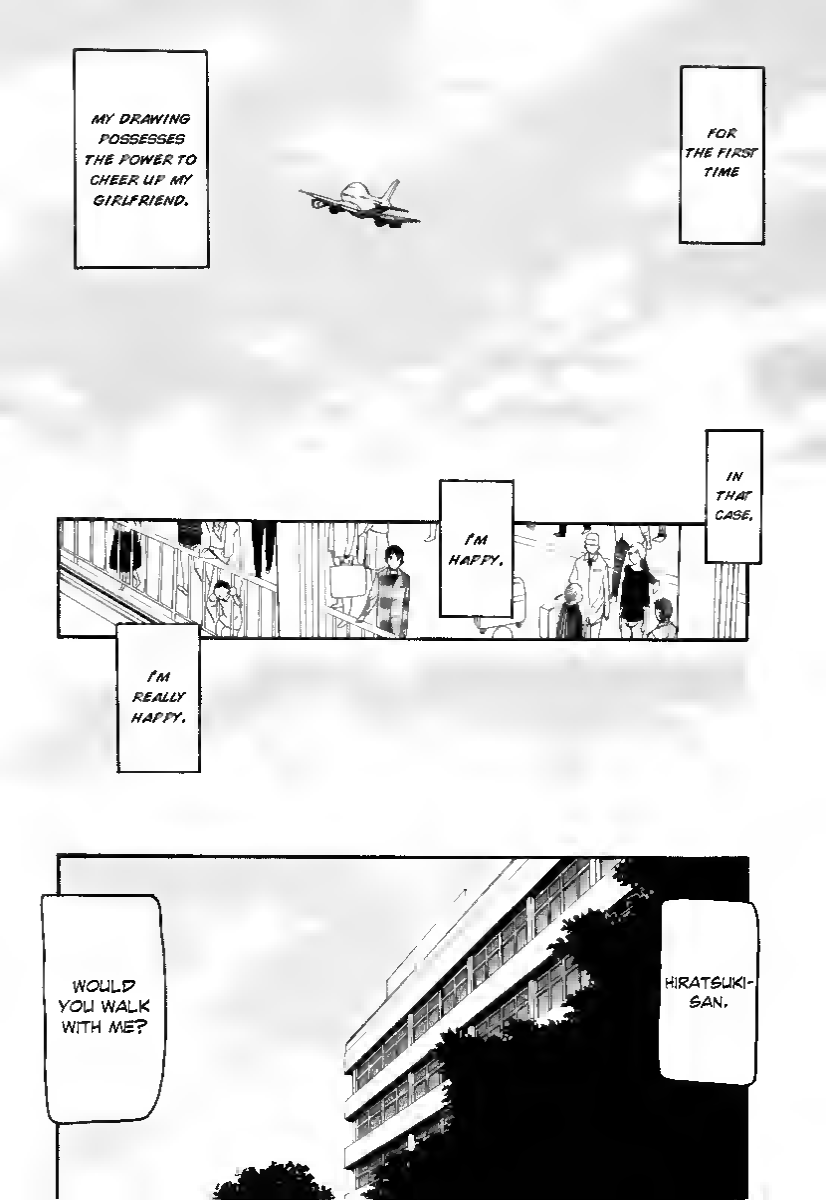
I'M TRYING TO TALK TO YOU NOW, CAN I COME IN?
WELL ...
HERE.
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN A HURRY, BUT YOUR TIMING IS ALWAYS PERFECT!

I'VE COMPLE-TED IT!
RIGHT ON TIME.

KEEP IT WITH YOU.
TO FILL MY PLACE.
I'VE SENT MOST OF MY LUGGAGE.
DOING IT NOW WILL JUST MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT ...

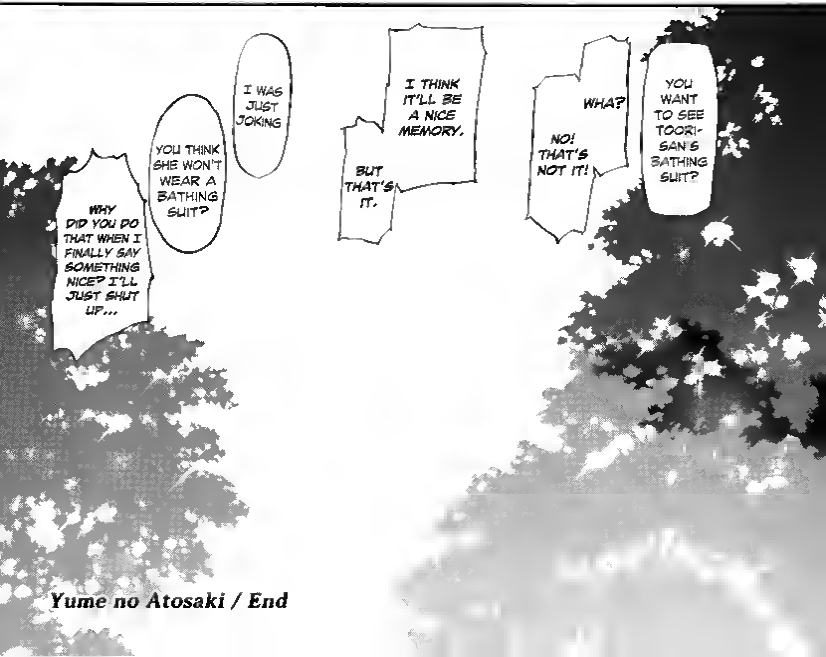
I'M AWARE.

REALLY
I SEE.
I TOLD HER TO DO HER BEST THERE.
ALTHOUGH I THINK THAT SHE'D DO BEST AT WHATEVER SHE LIKES TO DO...
AFTER THAT, AYA STARED AT MY DRAWING THAT I REVISED...


MY DRAWING POSSESSES THE POWER TO CHEER UP MY GIRLFRIEND.
FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN THAT CASE,
I'M HAPPY.
I'M REALLY HAPPY.
HIRATSUKI-SAN.
WOULD YOU WALK WITH ME?

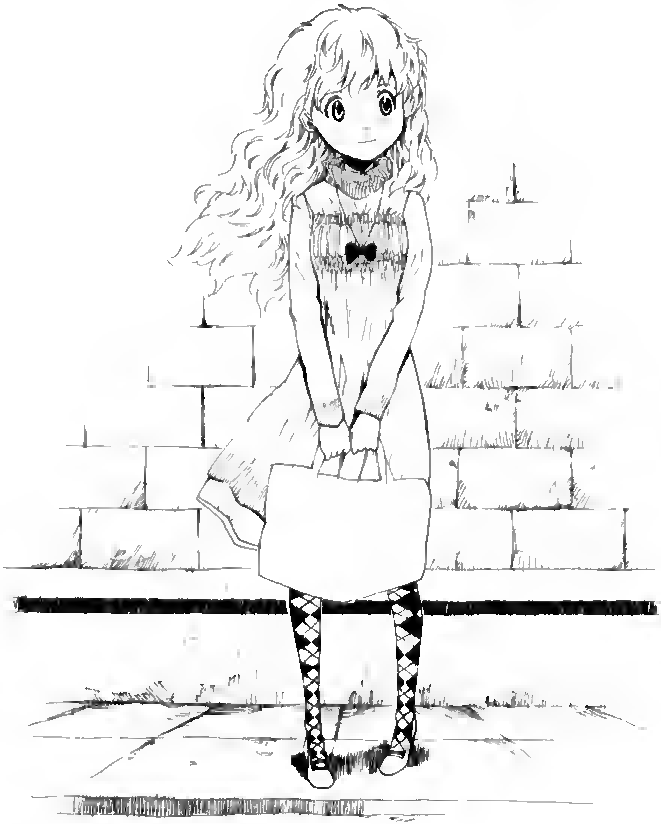
THINGS ARE GOING WELL FOR YASUSHI-KUN.
AREN T THINGS GOING WELL ENOUGH FOR YOU ALSO?
THE CAR... IS OVER ITS CAPACITY.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY RE GOING THAT FAR.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
SUCH THINGS...
WHA!

EVERY-ONE WILL GO FOR A DRIVE
TO THE SEA, I THINK...
THE GUYS ARE RETURNING FROM TOKYO.
THEY'RE HEADING BACK.
HUH?
IN THAT CASE...
SUMMER IS ABOUT TO END, BEFORE THAT...


I WAS JUST JOKING
YOU THINK SHE WON'T WEAR A BATHING SUIT?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT WHEN I FINALLY SAY SOMETHING NICE? I'LL JUST SHUT UP...
I THINK IT'LL BE A NICE MEMORY.
BUT THAT'S IT.
WHA?
NO! THAT'S NOT IT!
YOU WANT TO SEE TOORI-SAN'S BATHING SUIT?

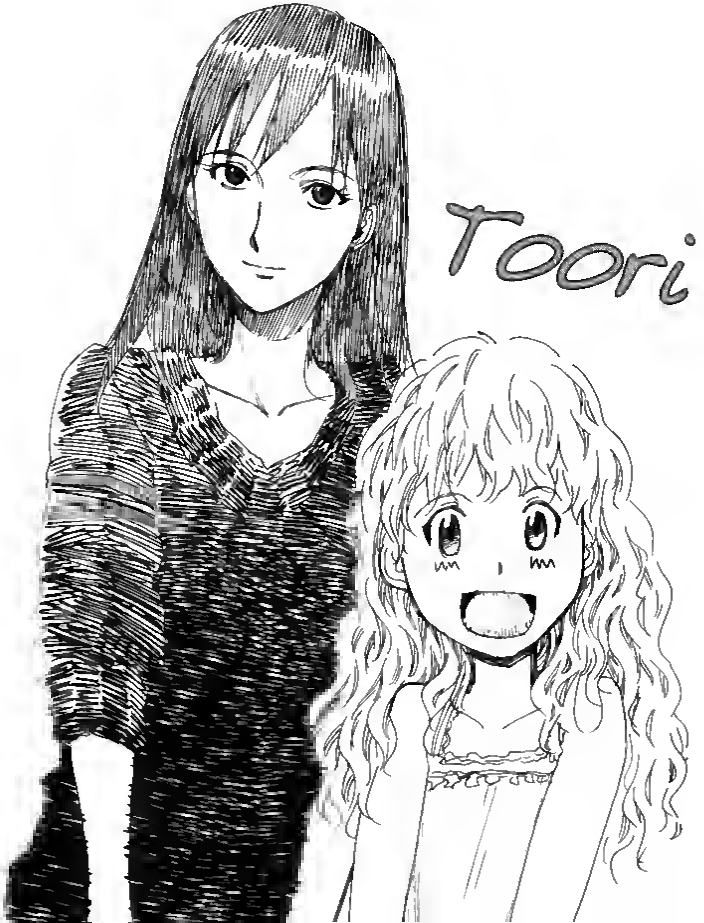
Yume no Atosaki / End

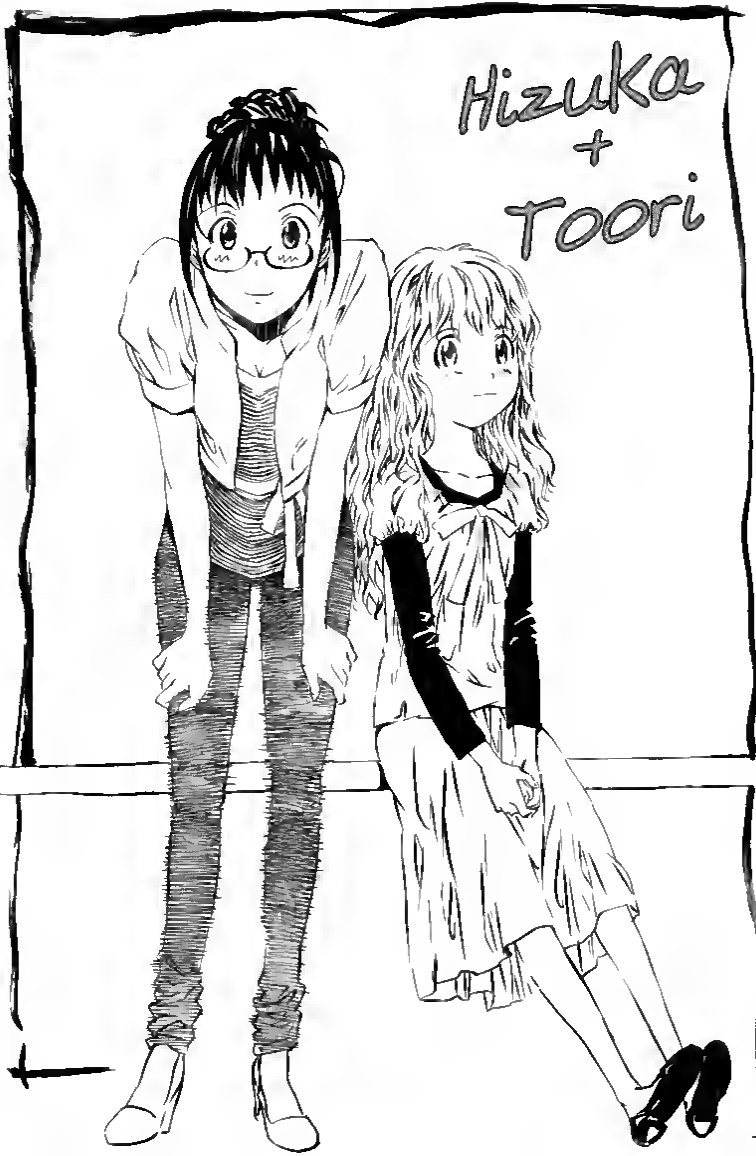
Toori



Aya

Aya Toori




Hizuka
+
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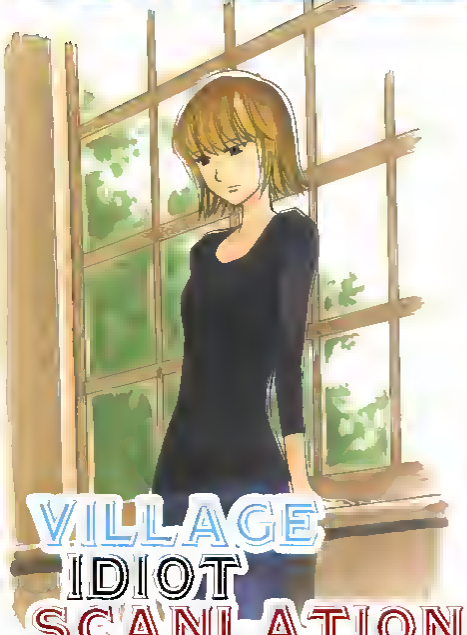

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yamamura hajime

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CHAPTER 5

やまむらはじめ

yamamura hajime

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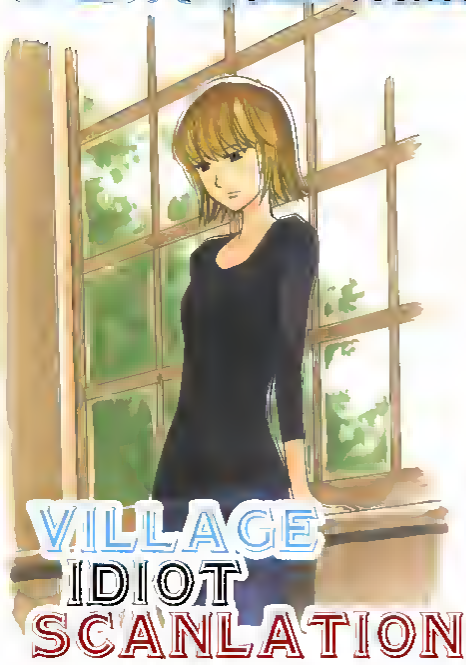

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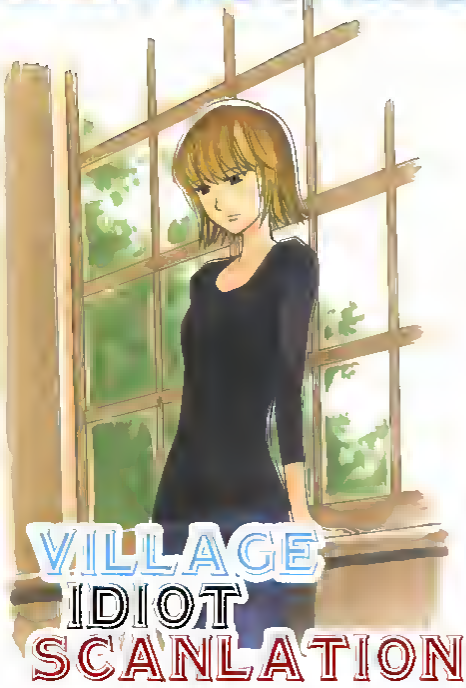

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